

Hello everyone, Board of Trustees, Chancellor Yong and the District Office. Before I start my prepared statement I just want to echo recognition of all of the hard work each and every group represented here has done. It is so heartening to see. We are swiftly moving toward the start of the fall semester, which makes for an exciting and busy time for faculty. The start of a new academic year is a special time that seems to be brimming with so much energy that you can practically feel the buzzing. With a new year comes a fresh start and endless possibilities paired with healthy doses of hard work and first day nerves...at least for me anyway. Those first day jitters never seem to completely subside no matter how many years I teach.

This school year is a little different than others as some faculty will stay working from home while others are returning to MJC as we continue the rollout of our safe transition back to campus. With transition comes some uncertainty, but we are hopeful that our community, district, and college will continue to prioritize safety, student access, and flexibility as these are paramount to student success and a productive academic year. We've made some difficult choices to keep our community safe and I know I am thankful for the support the board, chancellor, district, and administration have given our college in this regard. It will take us all continuing to work together, sometimes make difficult decisions, and being a model to our community in order to keep doing so.

The senate will be starting the semester with our first meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> where we will be working on a variety of issues. We are reevaluating our processes for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) with the hope that having a strong, consistent, and accessible system in place will give more students credit for the skills and training they've gained outside of the classroom. Not only will this have a positive impact on student equity, but we are hopeful that by making CPL more accessible it will have a positive impact on enrollment by encouraging community members who have received training outside of a college setting to attend MJC to earn their degree. We will also be working on hiring prioritization and continuing our work related to Guided Pathways. We will be contributing to the

development of an updated strategic plan and the accreditation midterm report, and we will continue our discussions on the impact on students and pedagogical implications of some of our newer course modalities.

These are just a few of our first tasks as the Academic Senate does the work needed to serve students, the college, and our community. We look forward to continued collegial collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor and District Office to enable a safe and productive academic year. Lastly, we are eager to continue developing a strong and cooperative relationship with ASMJC. We may not be a 30 second walk from one another at the moment, but I am positive we can bridge the distance and work to serve the students at MJC together.

That concludes my report. Thank you.