Good Evening Senate and Members of the Public,

Happy Wednesday!

Last Thursday I had the opportunity to take part in interviews with Director of Financial Aid candidate. I am personally very passionate about the affordability and accessibility of higher education so I was thrilled to be involved with these interviews. During the interviews I was most concerned with the candidate’s ability to interact with our student population and make information pertaining to financial aid more easily accessible.

Today the Director of Compliance search committee finished the last round of phone interviews with candidates today. We chose the top two candidates from the interviews and are contemplating a possible third candidate. The candidates will be invited to campus for a visit within the coming weeks. The committee is hoping to have the new director officially transition into their role by January of 2016.

Andre Frise (Director of Academic Affairs) along with myself met with Dr. Kinzie, who was contracted to help lead the campus through a review of the academic advising program.  This was just an initial data collecting visit for Dr. Kinzie.  It will be followed later in the semester by a more in depth and deeper dive look into academic advising that will be conducted by a team, led by Dr. Kinzie. Following the campus visits, the team will submit a report.  The plan is for the campus to host an advising summit in the spring that will review the report and develop a campus plan around academic advising.

This week, the Council of Presidents had a conference call with Student Regent Avi and Student Regent Designate Marcela about the principles against intolerance. There will be a public forum at UCLA on the matter on October 26 meeting.

I received an email from UCOP requesting my assistance with recruiting undergraduate students to apply for the vacant seats on the system wide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS).  UC Merced has not been represented on BOARS in the last five years which is why they reached out to me for assistance with recruiting students

BOARS is scheduled to hold its first meeting on Friday, November 6th and the committee expects student representatives to be appointed by then. BOARS is responsible for regulating the examination and classification of all applicants for admission to undergraduate status, and reports to the State Assembly. I will post the application so please apply.

Lastly, I will be having my first monthly 1:1 with Chancellor Leland on October 28th. If there is anything that you would like me to bring up let me know.