

AAPT-CPS

Report of the Two-Year College Representative

Gregory L. Dolise

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We have migrated our membership list to a server that gives us more flexibility for updating. All the board members can now add to or modify the list, which will allow us to keep the list current. This means we can make corrections quickly. If you did not receive an email about today's conference, please email me at gldolise@hacc.edu so we can add your email address to our list. Check to make sure your school is linked to on our web site. If it's not notify us. If you feel there is another link to a school or organization please let us know by emailing the webmaster. We're also in the process of moving our web site to a new server, so our url will change. More on that later.

I ran 18 students through the Physics Olympiad exam. The cutoff this year was 12.5, but due to a glitch in the Webassign scoring, they accepted 11.25 for students who took the online version. If your college is not hosting the exam, I urge you to consider becoming a host next year. If you're a high school teacher, encourage your students to take the exam.

Funding cuts are continuing. Colleges and universities have been cutting faculty, some tenured. Mansfield cut 29 faculty positions, Clarion and Edinboro, both in the Pittsburgh section, are cutting 22 and 40 positions respectively. My college is bringing in a few new professors, but the number is considerably less than was planned 2 years ago. Enrollments are down everywhere, and it only looks like it's going to get worse. In my college, classes with fewer than 10 students run at low enrollment pay if at all. professors at other TYC have reported similar issues.

Last year I reported that school districts are trying to change the Commonwealth regulations that require community colleges to be funded in part by their districts. This process is still ongoing and there is no progress to report in either direction. Obviously, we want the funding to remain. If it comes up in your area, please be vocal about it. We need to fight this.

An issue has been brewing concerning level of instruction. I'd like to remind everyone that a community college is the first two years of college. TYC professors have to remember that and keep their courses rigorous. They should not be any less challenging than the same course at a four year college or university. Likewise, FYC professors shouldn't look at student's work in a TYC as less educational. We all have to maintain our standards. Although dumbing down is a common trend, we have to stop that. In one CC, which requested anonymity, the level of instruction from different professors, for the same course, is vastly different. One professor barely covers the material, does not maintain exam integrity, and is lacksidasal in lab. But the school has no effective mechanism to address the problem once the professor is tenured. To help this issue, if you are at a FYC and have students from a TYC you feel are not adequately prepared, contact the school. Feedback is the only way we can ensure all colleges are maintaining standards. And we should be doing that with our students coming out of high school.

Respectfully Submitted

Gregory L. Dolise

Two-Year College Representative