For several years, I had a rather limited existence at Moorpark College. I was active in a variety of ways within my department, but knew little about the campus at large.

In 2011, I became the Curriculum Representative for the Language Division. A couple years later, I was asked to accept a nomination to be the Faculty Chair of Curriculum. I served three two-year terms as Chair, and it was from that position that I was able to see and appreciate the dynamics of how our campus worked.

During those six years as Curriculum Faculty Chair, I had the unique opportunity to work with every department on campus. Moorpark’s curriculum was recognized at the state level several times during my tenure, but for me, the real satisfaction didn’t come from the courses and programs. In came instead from working with the diverse groups and individual faculty members on our campus and from the working relationships that were formed. I inwardly winced each time I had to use the term “inventory” when referring to a department’s course offerings. Yes, pounds and pieces have some importance, but in curriculum, our mindset was that they were distant runners-up to the people actually teaching the courses.

In short, being a faculty advocate was the best component of my duties in curriculum. I would like to continue that advocacy as Academic Senate Vice President.

In addition to my work with faculty, I’ve also successfully worked with administrators, both on our campus and at the district level. On our campus, I obviously worked with the deans of the divisions putting though their curriculum, as well as with the Vice President/Chief Instructional Officer who served as Curriculum Administrative Chair. At the district level, I worked with faculty and administrators during DTRW meetings (DTRW is charged with reviewing curriculum and with revising instructional-related board policies). I think my reputation as someone who is collegial but dedicated to faculty advocacy is well-known.

Last year, I returned to being a full-time classroom instructor, and from a personal standpoint, I would be perfectly content to finish my career at Moorpark in the “limited existence” of my early years. However, there are issues on the horizon that make it difficult for me to do that. There seems to be a district movement to a more top-down approach, and honestly, the “Moorpark way” doesn’t mean as much as it did five years ago. “Moorparking it” is a real thing, but we can all see evidence of that slipping away.

I am going to do what I can to help Moorpark stay Moorpark in whatever role I have. I would be honored if the Senate decides the best role for me is Academic Senate Vice President.

Thank you,

Jerry Mansfield