

Candidate Statement

Erik D. Reese for Academic Senate President

Dear Fellow Moorpark Faculty Members,

Change is happening. It might seem slow. It might feel disjointed in our physically distanced virtual environment. However, we are collaborating within departments and divisions, across the college, across the district, and across the county, working to change the culture and climate to better support students, classified professionals, administrators, and faculty by infusing anti-racism into the fabric of the college and beyond. This critical and difficult work has just begun. Little by little we are making progress. Little by little. If we keep progressing little by little, eventually, we will generate enough momentum to enact meaningful and transformational change so that all students and employees feel welcome, supported, and empowered. The next few years will likely also come with financial challenges and what seems like a never-ending stream of initiatives from state legislators and the Chancellor's office. Through open, collaborative dialogue we can work together to map our path through these many obstacles, doing our best to turn challenges into opportunities.

The Academic Senate provides the important faculty perspective on academic and professional matters through our participatory governance model. It would be a pleasure to continue to collaborate with all of you to better support our students by listening often and facilitating the will of the faculty body in all academic and professional matters. I have had the pleasure of serving as Academic Senate President since June, Academic Senate Vice-President last year, Academic Senate Secretary for three years, faculty co-chair of FTCAP for two years, and department chair for three years. These various roles have afforded me experience in many of the processes and procedures at the college, district, and state. I welcome the opportunity to continue to learn from and with each and every one of you to provide the optimal student experience, while at the same time striving towards an inclusive and equitable environment for all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erik