OPEN FORUM 10/4/17

I'm speaking today in my capacity as VP of AFA and Liaison to the Academic Senate.

My comments today concern the draft "Textbook Order Process" you are scheduled to discuss today:

Though I have concerns about the substance of the draft, my comments today pertain process.

The draft document appears to AFA to have all of the characteristics of a policy, including likely impacts and effects for working conditions, academic freedom, and possible discipline (including the tracking of faculty behavior).

We believe the discussion today, asking the Senate for feedback on this "process," constitutes yet another instance, in a long series of such indiscretions, of direct-dealing, where groundwork is being made on a matter that is a subject of collective bargaining prior to offering the faculties exclusive representative an opportunity to review and negotiate any implications this draft may have for the contract. The District has a legal duty to inform AFA of their intent to pursue or create policy that has implications for faculty working conditions and other matters within the scope of bargaining prior to developing or even discussing such policy.

We have a process of shared governance for creating policy on this campus. In fact, we have a policy that specifies how policy drafts are generated and shepherded through shared governance system. The draft you are discussing today was not generated according to that policy, but even if it were, it would be improper to discuss here today prior to completion of negotiation on any issues related to the scope of bargaining.

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