

Petaluma Faculty Forum Report / AC Panella, PhD, Chair
Academic Senate 21 January 2026

Happy New Year and new semester. Thank you, Senate, for having me here today to discuss the work the Petaluma Faculty Forum over the course of the Fall 2025 semester. PFF continued to serve as an important site of shared governance, collaboration, and campus-wide engagement on the Petaluma Campus. Through regular meetings, reporting structures, and facilitated discussion, PFF worked to strengthen faculty voices, advance interdisciplinary collaboration, and continued support to student success. There are four areas themes that arose from last semesters work.

First, faculty engagement & community building. PFF prioritized rebuilding and sustaining campus community through meetings regularly that opened with grounding questions and open forums that encouraged reflection, creativity, and collegiality. Faculty participation reflected growing momentum, with consistent attendance across disciplines and active contributions to discussion and initiatives. Additionally, the Forum also promoted Faculty Appreciation Observation Month, encouraging peer classroom visits as a form of low-stakes professional development.

Second, the thematic learning opportunity & creative pedagogical innovation. A major accomplishment of Fall 2025 was the continued implementation of the Petaluma campus theme, **Borders**, adopted the previous year and actively integrated this semester. PFF facilitated brainstorming sessions with deans and faculty to incorporate the theme into coursework, events, and student projects. Faculty were encouraged to contribute to a campus newsletter highlighting curricular and co-curricular work connected to the theme.

Additionally, PFF supported innovative, creativity-centered pedagogy through the development of *Imagination Boxes*, interdisciplinary, library-based learning tools designed to foster storytelling, play, and student connection in response to growing concerns about disengagement and over-reliance on generative AI. These projects were positioned as adaptable, evergreen assignments for multiple disciplines.

Third, support for student success & so-curricular learning. PFF played an active role in amplifying student-focused initiatives, including promotion and faculty support for the Student Research Conference, with approximately 90 student participants expected in December. Faculty were encouraged to serve as judges, mentors, and advocates for student scholarship. PFF also supported engagement with Lumafest, creating an altar for Día de los Muertos dedicated to interdisciplinary scholars, library exhibits, and other cultural and academic events that connected classroom learning to campus life.

Fourth, shared governance & communication. Throughout the semester, PFF functioned as an important communication bridge between faculty, the Academic Senate, the All Faculty Association (AFA), administration, and Student Services. Regular reports updated faculty on:

- Academic Senate discussions related to generative AI, faculty hiring procedures, and legislative impacts (e.g., AB 1705)
- AFA negotiations, healthcare town halls, and opportunities for Petaluma faculty representation

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- Enrollment growth, staffing updates, Guided Pathways rebranding, and student support services available on campus

These reports ensured transparency and strengthened faculty participation in institutional decision-making.

As we head into Spring 2026, we are looking forward to our annual We the Future Conference whose theme this year is Joy and Resistance, intentionally paired with the campus theme of Borders. Based on a faculty survey data to identify priority topics for this semester, we have scheduled an early-semester retreat, and our discussion this semester will focus around the TLO, assessment and grading best practices, faculty wellness, and continued focus on student success, engagement and retention.

Thank you again for your continued support for the faculty at the Petaluma campus.