

Academic Senate President's Report

November 16, 2016

AFA/Senate Dialogue

- The Next joint AFA/Senate Meeting will be November 30, 3:00-5:00 at AFA's New Headquarters at 437 Elliott (Across from Shuhaw)
- AFA president Karen Frindell-Teuscher and I have been meeting regularly. Our dialogue includes, in addition to schemes for taking over the world, restructuring our respective organizations and meeting times to allow us to serve on each other's leadership bodies. The goal is to have AFA representation on the Senate Exec, and Senate representation on the AFA Cabinet, as is done at some other colleges in the state to better facilitate collaboration between senates and collective bargaining agents.

RFP Bookstore (text excerpted from an email from VP Doug Roberts):

- The District issued a "RFP" (Request for Proposal) to gather information from outside vendors regarding a possible alternative to the current management of our bookstore. A copy of that RFP is available on the Senate website.
- Starting on Page 7 is a list of the District expectations of anyone operating a bookstore on our campuses.
- The RFP includes all of the questions/concerns that we received from interested parties through October 24th... However ... that was not the last opportunity to send the vendors additional questions.
- **This Friday, November 18th**, is the deadline for the District to submit any additional questions to the vendors, which the vendor needs to address (in their written proposal to us) on December 9th.
- If anyone has any additional concerns/questions that they would like the District to send to the vendors, please have them **send those concerns/questions to Laura Rivera by this Thursday, November 17th**.
- However this is still not the last opportunity to pose additional questions or voice concerns to the vendor (and ask for vendor responses). We can continue to gather questions/concerns right up to the vendor interviews that will take place on January 17th (that date is the one change you'll note from the Original RFP Timeline on page 3).
- Just as a reminder, receiving RFP's does not mean that the District will necessarily change the management of the Bookstore.
- We need to see what the alternatives might be before we make a decision.
- If it is the District's desire to maintain District-management of the Bookstore, then that is a choice we can make.
- As with all decisions, there are pluses and minuses.
- The Auxiliary Enterprise Committee will be the committee evaluating the proposals, and all stakeholder groups have representatives on this committee.

- The vendor interviews will be open to everyone, and I encourage all interested parties to attend.

Faculty Staffing

- The Faculty Staffing committee completed its work on October 28, ranking 20 full time requests in order of priority (and urgency). The list was forward to Dr. Chong, who approved the staffing of the top five positions: They are 2 new full time positions in Nursing, one each in Physics, College Skills/Math, and English for Petaluma. There are, so far eight announced retirements for this year, and additional full time faculty hiring continues for positions that have not been successfully filled for the last two years.

Class Size and Articles 32.03.B.1-4, and Article 6

- As a result of the Senate's conversation, the District and AFA will follow Article 6: Interpreting the Contract, and seek a mutual understanding of the meaning of the language of Article 32.03. The Senate is not a participant in negotiations, but I have requested being included and am waiting to hear. Such a request, I believe, must be approved by both negotiating sides.

The Election

- Marginalized and vulnerable people, for example our whole Latinx population, but others as well, whether documented or not, understandable feel worried about the many statements made by the US president elect. I have received many reports of racist hatred aimed at people of more melanin than me, for example. People with this kind of sentiment perhaps feel emboldened by the results of the election.
- Statements have been issued by the Chancellor's Office (which I distributed to the college community last week), and by many other leaders. Faculty, Staff, Administrators and Students are forming various groups and plans to communicate support for our students, and all other persons, who have identities targeted by the rhetoric throughout this presidential campaign. No matter our politics, we can all certainly appreciate how devastated and in danger many people feel. Even Anti-Semitism is seeing a resurgence. The cause for equality for the LGBTQ community, for women, for the health of the environment, so many things are at stake here.
- On the other hand, I have also received complaints by people who feel either neutral or good about the election results, urging me that faculty must remain restrained, and "neutral" about politics in their classrooms. Don't be surprised if we see more events of the "Red Star" kind. It is a good time to reflect, discuss, and organize. Let's be deliberate and thoughtful about our academic freedom, and our mission which includes a commitment to social justice.

These are interesting and perilous times.

Eric Thompson