

## **AFA Report to the Board of Trustees, 2/9/21, Sean Martin, AFA President**

President Battenfeld, Trustees, President Chong, Esteemed Colleagues and members of the community,

- I'll begin by noting that AFA is initiating a process to consult with the faculty on plans for eventually re-opening the college to in-person instruction and services. Principle among our aims is to ensure the safety of faculty along with all members of the community while also restoring quality in-person instruction and allied services on which many programs and students depend. To this end, on February 18, from 1:00-3:00 pm, AFA is holding the first of what we expect to be numerous listening sessions. This session will provide all faculty members an opportunity to share their concerns and offer their ideas on how to expand in-person services and address continuing conditions caused by remote services. We ask that those faculty members who can attend this listening session do so. Any faculty members unable to attend are encouraged to contact the AFA office directly, or they may share their ideas with any AFA officer or member of the Executive Council. We will be considering all faculty input carefully as we prepare for negotiations with the district in addressing any impacts and effects relevant to the district's decision on how to proceed in the summer and fall terms.

In addition, we support the efforts of our Classified colleagues in SEIU to robustly pursue the interests of their members. And, we welcome input from student and district leaders on the same. We look forward to continuing our conversations with each of these groups as we forge an equitable return to something approaching normal operations.

- AFA is currently in negotiations with the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) on terms for a possible for new contract for the next academic year. FACCC is one of two groups we work with on issues at the state level (the other being CCCI). Of current interest to both faculty, and the college community as a whole, is our effort to encourage legislators to increase the proposed COLA in the Governor's budget for Community Colleges to K-12 levels and also to eliminate the problematic policy contingencies the Governor attached to this year's COLA. On the latter point, it is vital that we oppose the growing practice of statewide leaders, including at the Governor's and Chancellor's office, of conflating desperately-needed funding with an intrusion on local democratic processes. We trust you, our locally elected Trustees, as well as our colleagues and students engaged in local shared governance, to know what is best for our community. So, we hope you'll join us in this effort. Faculty members interested in supporting this effort may take advantage of the user-friendly advocacy feature on the FACCC website.
- As noted in previous reports, AFA continues to work productively with our affiliates at North Bay Jobs with Justice. We look forward to numerous opportunities for potential

partnerships that promise to provide support for our programs serving our most vulnerable students and their families during these trying times.

- AFA applauds and remains engaged in the effort to improve enrollment management at SRJC. We are also consulting with our colleagues in the Academic Senate to determine pedagogically sound class-sizes in preparation for negotiations with the district. Further, we will continue to advocate for restoration of our schedule of classes, fewer schedule cuts, and where necessary, more rationally targeted schedule cuts. We are convinced such efforts will improve conditions for student success while also increasing security for adjunct faculty moving forward.
- AFA will continue to press for reforms to our shared governance bodies so that they align with labor law. We wish to again thank our Vice President of Academic Affairs and District Chief Negotiator, as well as her team, for working with the faculty in this shared interest.
- AFA will continue to confer with our faculty colleagues in the Senate along with members of all constituent groups on an array of issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion, including professional development, newly established positions on the Senate Executive Committee, special assignments and programs, and working conditions related to safety and remote instruction. Our goal is to meet this historical moment while also protecting essential labor rights. Union work is equity work.

Thank you.