

ALL FACULTY SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

AFA Report to the Board of Trustees, November 12, 2024

Anne Donegan, AFA President

Good afternoon President Chabon, Members of the Board, President Garcia, and the college community. I am sorry that I am not with you today in person.

I wanted to start my report today by continuing the concerns I raised last month in Petaluma. The faculty, and I suspect the entire District, would like a full report of what happened on the Petaluma campus on October 2nd. Was there someone with a gun? If so, why was there not a lockdown? If the District wants to “creat[ing] a community where students and colleagues feel safe, valued, and respected”, then communication is key! Please answer these questions and share all pertinent information to the college community as soon as possible.

Additionally last month, I spoke about an act of vandalism in Lark Hall where students and faculty members felt left in the dark as to what was happening. What I failed to mention because I reached my time limit, was that the JC police did apprehend the person within a few days after the incident occurred. This is a very good thing, yet communication from the District during difficult situations needs to be improved. And right now, we are experiencing a very difficult situation and we need communication from the District.

This difficult situation that I am now speaking of, is the effects of last week’s election. I recognize that most Americans voted for Trump, including many here in Sonoma County, including many who work for and study at SRJC. That of course is their choice. Clearly Americans want change. But I must say that many of us as AFA members and our students are anxious, beyond anxious. Not only because DT has praised Elon Musk for firing employees who wanted to unionize, but we are worried that our democratic principles are under attack. As a Historian, I have studied democratic societies, constitutional systems, and how such systems have been dismantled. At this time, like many Historians, I am nervous. President-elect Trump has told us what he wants to do: erode constitutional norms, stop the work needed to mitigate climate change, and deport immigrants. He just appointed Stephen Miller as his Asst. Chief of Staff, the same Stephen Miller who said at MSG last month, that, “America is for Americans and for Americans Only.” I suspect Mr. Miller has a different definition of an American than I do.

So what can we do? Especially for our neighbors, co-workers, and students who are undocumented or who have family members who are? AFA, and I suspect my SEIU and AS and CS colleagues as well, will be working with our colleagues across the state. We will be working with FACCC and the other independent unions to do what we can to protect vulnerable Californians. But the reality is, SRJC, is bigger than any one constituency group. You represent all of us: students, employees, and the county. You need to take the lead. If you haven't already reach out to other Boards, other College presidents, the League, your contacts in Sacramento, DC, and Silicon Valley. Go to your professional and civic organizations and mobilize. It is time for the most powerful in CA to protect the most vulnerable.

We are still a country where federalism is in place. State and local governments do have power vis a vis the federal govt. SRJC is part of state and local gov't. Now is the time to mobilize, unite SRJC, and act to protect our community.