

Dear Dr. Chong and Members of the Board,

The Counseling Department faculty wish to take this time to inform you that we will not participate in tabling and providing information to our community at the Day Under the Oaks event. The Counseling Department has participated extensively throughout the years in offering outreach services to our community. As an example, we are tirelessly working evenings and weekends teaching many Counseling 270s: Introduction to College classes, and developing first semester academic plans to get our new incoming students ready to register on April 18 for the summer and fall 2018 terms. We are a department that says “yes” to many things, but this time, we are saying “no.”

The lack of a contract with Rank 10 intact causes us to examine how far we will extend ourselves in showcasing what is claimed to be an institution of excellence. In past years, we have eagerly participated at the Day Under the Oaks event. Given our current situation, we do not feel we can participate in showcasing this institution of excellence when in fact, we do not feel the institution is excellent. The faculty have acted reasonably in the past during difficult budget times and agreed to freeze Rank 10. The district’s final package represents an ongoing systemic problem of not solving our budget problems effectively. The district has continuously kicked the budget problem down the road. Blaming Rank 10 for breaking the bank is a poor excuse for lack of smart budget planning and management.

Should a contract be reached prior to Day Under the Oaks with Rank 10 intact, we will reconsider our participation at this and other events.

Regards,

The Counseling Department