

**From:** AFA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2009 4:01 PM  
**To:** DL.STAFF.FAC.ALL  
**Subject:** AFA Budget Issues Update #1

Colleagues--

Last week in my email about the recent budget crisis and the District's reduction of the Fall 2009 schedule ([http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/email\\_afa\\_061609.pdf](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/email_afa_061609.pdf)), I mentioned that AFA would be updating the faculty regularly on events as they unfold this summer.

### **Fall Schedule Update**

Last Tuesday morning, AFA and the District signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that protects the rights of hourly faculty to the remaining hourly loads following the District's reduction of the Fall schedule by 113 FTEF. That same day, chairs and deans set to work implementing the MOU.

Some faculty members, both full-time and part-time, are in a financial position to relinquish their rights to hourly assignments voluntarily in order to provide load for other faculty in their departments who depend upon their hourly loads for livelihood. Chairs and deans have urged those who find themselves in that position to do so, and the MOU provides these volunteers with protection of their like-load rights if they do give up their right to a load. It's too early to tell how successful this plan has been, but I have heard some encouraging reports. In my department, for example, enough faculty have given up their Fall hourly assignments so that nearly all other adjunct faculty, including those without assignment priority, have received offers for Fall 2009 that meet their like-load obligations. I hear reports that other departments

have had similar experiences.

Also last Tuesday, AFA and the District started investigating creative alternatives to lessening the impact of the budget situation on the Fall 2009 schedule. AFA and the District will be negotiating throughout the summer on this matter. Our priorities, in order, are to (a) provide the best possible Fall schedule for our students, (b) protect our programs in the long-term as much as reasonably possible, and (c) lessen the impact on hourly faculty loads.

If you have a potential alternative you would like to share with AFA and the rest of the college community, send it to the AFA office ([afa@santarosa.edu](mailto:afa@santarosa.edu)) using your college email account (@santarosa.edu) with *SUBJECT: Faculty Comment*. I'll make sure your comments are presented to both the AFA and District negotiating teams. Please indicate if you prefer your comments to be presented anonymously. Comments will be posted on the AFA website [http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget\\_Crisis.shtml](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget_Crisis.shtml)

## **Advocacy**

The State still is in the process of determining the 2009-10 Budget, and the funding for California community colleges is not completely determined. Relatively encouraging news came out of the Joint Legislative Budget Conference Committee last week, but there is no guarantee that its recommendations for the CCC's will survive the governor's blue pencil. Now is the time to write your State legislators and the governor, telling them to provide the necessary funding to California community colleges and to keep reasonable fees in place for our students. Your advocacy is necessary to offset the enormous pressure on the governor

from various interest groups to decimate the funding for SRJC and other community colleges.

One such interest group is *Campaign for College Opportunity*. Last Friday, the *Campaign* made public its letter to the governor that recommended cutting CCC funding (resulting in the loss of over \$8 million dollars to SRJC), doubling student fees by 2012, and instituting other draconian measures. The District joined with AFA in denouncing the *Campaign's* recommendations, and the District will consult with the Board on its previous endorsement of this group. (The *Campaign's* letter and the responses by AFA and Dr. Agrella are posted at <http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/CollOppLetterSp09.pdf> .)

You can find out how to contact your State assembly member and State senator at the AFA website, <http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/advocacy.shtml> . Please cc AFA, so that your email or letter may be posted at the AFA website, and used as an example letter by others.

## **College Discussion**

We all appreciate the profound impact the proposed schedule cuts will make. The emails on DL.STAFF and on the AFA website have shown the potential consequences to the lives of many of our colleagues. It's no surprise that the dialog at times has taken on a tone that is less than courteous or civil, or that factions have developed among the faculty.

The seriousness of the situation certainly merits a frank discussion, but the effect of the power of language in the give-and-take on this matter has to be considered. Eventually, conclusions on how to

handle budget reductions in 2009-10 will be mutually agreed upon by AFA and the District, as well as the other bargaining units. No person or faction will be completely satisfied with every aspect of any such compromise, but possibly most of us will feel it is fair. However, when the integrity and motives of faculty holding different views are questioned, or when lists of demands are presented, that eventual compromise becomes less likely to be perceived as fair by all parties involved.

AFA will continue to email updates over the next several weeks, so stay tuned.

--Warren

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