



Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the following summary of our last Representative Assembly meeting, held on **Thu. Nov. 20**. Follow the hyperlinks for more information.

SUDDEN AND RADICAL CUTS TO WINTER COUNSELING

- There have been 6000 hours cut from Winter counseling hours, a radical and sudden reduction. Three thousand of those hours were general counseling.
- As far as Peter knows, there were no conversations about alternatives to these cuts, other strategies for how to approach cuts, how the decision was reached, when it was reached, who was part of the process, etc.
- Peter wrote a letter to college leadership inquiring about the above and is awaiting a response.
- But the fact that we are now once again a month away from winter session, and people are abruptly getting their hours cut is such a dramatic and preventable disruption to people's finances. There is nothing legislative or logistical that requires us to schedule in this last-minute, heedless way. This is an unstable, impossible way for part-time faculty to live and manage their personal obligations.
- The limited SEAP budget was set in Summer for 2025-26. The decision was to proceed with a 29% cut to Summer 2025, a 45% cut to Fall 2025, and Spring 2026. Winter 2026 was not factored in. There was no knowledge of this.
- This is another example of the college's administration showing that they really do not value faculty or students in the day to day way they operate this college and make decisions.
- Before these cuts, counseling was already understaffed and overwhelmed. Students are experiencing a wait time of three hours on average to get access to a counselor. Moreover, it's transfer season, when students need extra timely support for that process
- Consensus among long-time faculty that this is by far the worst it has ever been in over 25 years.
- This will drive talent away from this institution in search of a more stable, well-managed college.
- The FA leadership has also reached out to the Student Body President to alert students to the ways that this is going to affect them

CONCERNS ABOUT THE UPCOMING "BUDGET FORUM" ON 11.24

- The forum invitation email mentioned a range of things - proposed cuts, rollbacks, etc. that bordered on unfair labor practice, by bypassing the bargaining unit to go directly to faculty to talk about negotiable items.
- The district has already solicited input from people and should they then want to factor that input into negotiations, that is double dealing.
- We will wait and see how the forum on Monday Nov. 24 is managed. If it is a one-way informational presentation that stays on the appropriate side of the line, so be it, but we are being watchful to see if this veers into an unfair labor practice that merits filing a PERB charge.
- After years of being in Hold Harmless, and ignoring proactive and innovative ways to explore growing the college, these decisions represent truly incompetent leadership. We are confronted with a serious management problem.

AAUP V. TRUMP LAWSUIT

- Recent federal decisions are a violation of the First amendment, tenth, Title IX, various acts of Congress...It's focused on the federal government's decisions directed at the UC system that has constituted constitutional overreach.
- Amicus brief - We joined along with nine other independent CCs in California to support the brief
- Preliminary injunction
 - Judge concluded that there was "overwhelming evidence" of overreach. The preliminary injunction is now in place.
 - A cease and desist order is currently in place. The FA will keep the assembly updated.

ONGOING ERRORS IN PAYROLL

- Given the number of mistakes payroll has been making, its important that you meet as early as possible with Peter if you are planning on retiring soon.

DR SHY ROY, VICE CHAIR OF SMCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CALIFORNIA SENATE CANDIDATE

- He joined the SMC board in 2018. Given his aim to earn a seat in the California Senate, it is a good opportunity for RA members to ask questions and learn more about his priorities and where advocacy for community colleges fit into those plans
- Worth noting that we have endorsed candidates in the past, and also that we don't always endorse candidates.
- There are a number of candidates in this race.
- After a brief introduction, Shy Roy opened with comments about what is prompting him to run:
 - Primarily the situation faced by his Medical patients in a climate of severe cuts and a rise in uninsured patients. Wait times in many ERs are going to go from hours to days. A number of hospitals will go out of business and so on so the larger picture will affect all of us, when it comes to easy access to quality care. "We need people up [in Sacramento] with healthcare backgrounds."
 - Additional reason: long term effects and issues related to the Palisades fire, which encompasses his district and private residence. But large swaths of California are at risk, so improvements to fire insurance coverage and other policy initiatives are important.
 - Third and finally, education. There is a shortage of dedicated advocates in Sacramento for community colleges. There are not the amounts of donor money and PACs that would impel legislators to get more involved in CC legislation. "I will be up there and I will fight for you," he said. Many of the most important budget conversations happen behind closed doors, and it puts all of you in an "uncomfortable" position. You rely on the college for salary, benefits, pension, etc.
 - Roy went on to say he could not talk specifically about specific items that are part of ongoing negotiations between the FA and the district, but is happy to answer questions.

Q&A: DR. ROY AND REP ASSEMBLY

(questions and answers are closely paraphrased except where indicated by quotemarks)

Q: As an SMC Trustee, can you give us an example of how you have advocated for faculty and/or students in that capacity?

- **A:** Threats to salary, and other benefits are raised on a monthly basis and I consistently counter that certain ideas would be intolerable. As for students and how he has advocated for them, he cited his support for student housing.

Q: Given the recent news of a 6000-hour cut to Winter Counseling, that means that even if more class sections are added, if students cannot get support while enrolled in those classes, it does not turn out to be a thriving way forward- what are your thoughts?

- **A:** Counselors are critically important and the ratio has to be better. “That’s an unfortunate thing.”

Q: Over the past five years, department chairs have been put under such tremendous stress, and course offerings have been cut, and so it is so clear that the administration has failed faculty and students tremendously. The way funds are spent has been short sighted. This is my point of view. Where does the buck stop?

- **A:** The Faculty Association’s ideas are discussed among trustees. People are unhappy about the results, “as you should be.” But your ideas are discussed, it is “not a total silo.” Also, much depends on the state budget, and much like SMC does, the state factors in the worst case scenario. The state is cutting everything across the board and in his view, the best response is “to invest in infrastructure.”

Q: On your campaign website, visitors can see your priorities but our members would like to know more about your plans to advocate for education specifically.

- **A:** Fighting for the budget. “That is the main thing. Community colleges do not have the political foothold to fight for money in Sacramento. That is the number one thing.”

Q: If elected, are you giving it 100% and giving up your medical practice?

- **A:** Yes, it’s a full-time job.

Q: What are you going to do to support our Associate’s Degree nursing program and respiratory program?

- **A:** What I think will be critical is for the state to invest in Workforce programs, and that includes nursing and a range of other healthcare jobs - radiation tech, and so on. These are good and secure jobs and needed by the community.

In closing, *thank you* for the work you do to keep the Association strong. Please note that our **final** RA meeting of the fall semester is scheduled for **Thu. Dec. 4, 2025**.

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