



Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the attached summary of the last Representative Assembly meeting, held on **Mar. 12**. It is a shareable PDF with hyperlinks linked to more information.

SMC BENEFITS & RETIREMENT CONFERENCE: MARCH 20, 2026 (on campus)

1. Take note of the [Conference Agenda & Schedule](#): We will provide access to slide decks and information after the conference.

KNOW YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

- [Click to View the Presentation](#), which includes:
 - How to verify which plan you are enrolled in. Know the kinds of benefits you have
 - How to use the provided calculator to determine the size of the paycheck deduction from your gross earnings
 - Understanding the types of retirement options available

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MARCH MEETING/ CLASSIFIED & MANAGEMENT LAYOFFS

- No mention of the layoffs or restructuring (the formal letters went out to classified and manager colleagues yesterday)
- Brilliant presentation by CSEA President Cindy Ordaz pointing out the many ways that the college leadership has continued to make decisions on the backs of classified folks without true analysis. For example, both the FA and CSEA had to negotiate and fight for countless months in the 2022 contract cycle to get any kind of salary improvement. It was then passed through to all managers without any debate, struggle or consideration of possible consequences.
- Many public comments attesting to the impact of layoffs and calling for more transparency in what metrics and priorities were being used to decide which positions to eliminate. Academic Senate President Vicenta Arrizon reminded the board that just last year the Superintendent-President approved a guiding principles document that stated budgetary decisions need to be kept far from our core mission - providing an excellent educational experience to our students. And there's been no indication of how that's been used in the decisions to send out the layoff notices.
- [Peter's Board Meeting comments](#)
- We're working behind the scenes to bring pressure on the district to make smart choices and focus on the structures that support students

FACCC REPORT -2026 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES (Mario Martinez)

[\(FACCC\)](#) is a professional advocacy organization that represents the key interests of community college faculty statewide. Some key priorities are summarize below. [Find the full report here](#).

- FACCC's Current Legislative Priorities (legislation they have sponsored or co-sponsored)
 - **AB1171 (Patel) Part-Time Health Insurance Program**. Requires district participation in PT faculty health insurance program to improve parity and retention. The bill has passed, but

- it's complicated, as there are many scenarios that have not been considered or planned for yet in implementation of the program. The aim is a centralized distribution for PT health insurance to adjuncts who have a 40% load
- Meanwhile our SMC FA Leadership has reached out to the college's Benefits Committee to work on getting this coverage for SMC's PT faculty, regardless of the fate or details of the state program. The aim is for PT faculty to have the same coverage choices as FT faculty.
 - **AB2019 (Gipson) Faculty Deportation/Detainment Protection and Continuity.** Allows community college faculty who are detained, deported, or denied re-entry due to immigration enforcement to continue performing their duties remotely.
 - **AB65 (Aguilar-Curry) Faculty Paid Pregnancy Leave Protection.** Provides up to 14 weeks of fully paid pregnancy-related leave for community college employees.
- FACCC's Current Budget Priorities – Among them:
 - Ensure COLAs are provided for all categorical programs to prevent erosion of student services and institutional purchasing power.
 - Oppose withholding the 2.41% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) from districts not on the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF).
 - Reform the SCFF by increasing base funding, eliminating performance-based funding, and improving statewide data collection.
 - See the complete list of FACCC budget priorities in the report linked above

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

- As background context, the CA state budget is looking better than the Governor's January projections and we're hopeful about the [May Revise](#), which may take some budget pressure off of the district as we continue negotiations.
- There may be more concrete news for you in a few weeks.

In closing, *thank you* for the work you do to keep the Association strong. Please note that our next RA meeting is scheduled for **March 26**.

Diane Arieff
SMCFA Recording Secretary | FA Communications

Save the dates: Two candidates for CA Senate are booked to come speak to the RA at two upcoming meetings: [John Erickson](#) at the April 9 RA Meeting and [Mike Newhouse](#) at the April 30 RA Meeting

PS: Invite your colleagues to visit the [FA's YouTube Channel](#), where we post short videos on a range of topics relevant to faculty.