



Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the summary below of the last Representative Assembly meeting, held on **April 30**.

FERRIS KAWAR PRESENTED AN SMC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Kawar, Director of Sustainability at SMC, gave a slide show overview of the current climate action objectives and how these goals translate into approaches to curriculum, the caretaking of the physical environment of the campus, and other policies at SMC
- He highlighted five key elements:
 - Community Engagement
 - Academia & Curriculum
 - Climate Workforce Development
 - Student Engagement
 - Performance Tracking
- Those who have questions or want to learn more are encouraged to contact him:
Kawar_Ferris@smc.edu

REMINDER: VOTE IN THE STATEWIDE FACCC ELECTIONS

- Members were again reminded to vote in the FACCC elections

DATA BREACH – LEAKED W-2 INFORMATION

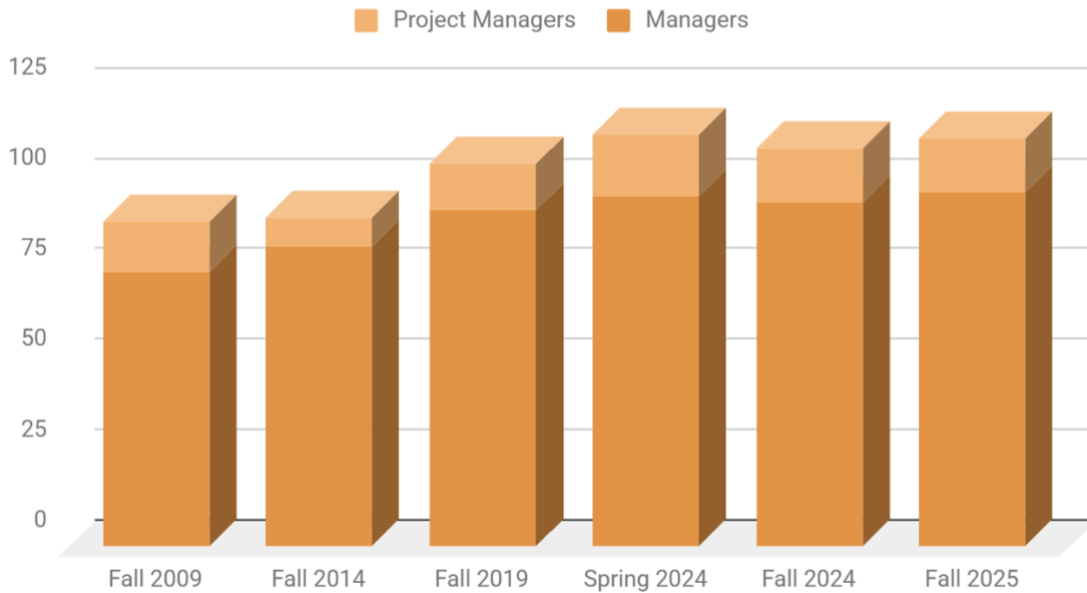
- At this count, at least 45 SMC employees have been affected by it, but the remedy is a fairly straightforward bit of paperwork with the IRS and Franchise Tax Board. VP Bonvenuto did send out an email about the issue.
- We are still hoping to get gratis credit reporting services for those affected. Please stay tuned for updates.

SMC BUDGET COMMITTEE – KEY FACTS TO NOTE

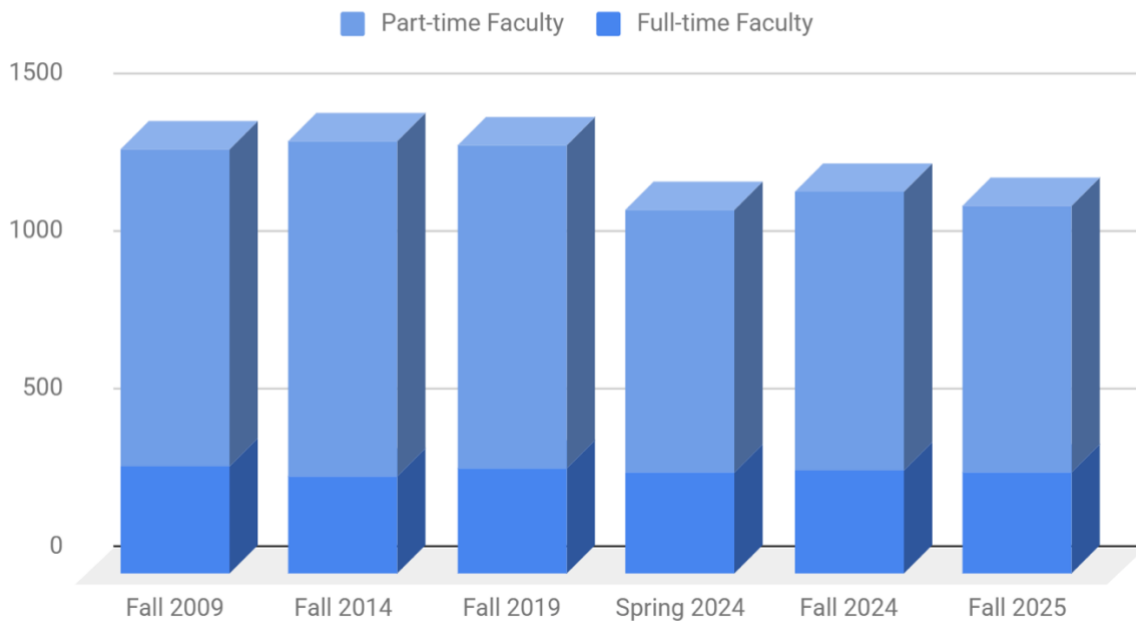
- There is some confusion and concern among our members regarding the college's budget situation. Below, some graphs and key facts that should be clarifying:
 - For years, the FA has tried to make clear that the college administration and board have failed to plan, propose or implement a broad strategy, with measurable outcomes, to move the college off of the "Hold-harmless" status under the 2018-19 implementation of the new funding model for community colleges (the SCFF)

- In 2017 the college administration offered an early retirement incentive to all employee groups and did not restructure afterwards, and repeated that in 2020. We pointed out that COVID and the early retirement programs perfectly positioned the college to discuss a wider reorganization. Instead they simply rehired and refilled management positions, and chose to cut sections (reducing PT numbers by over 250) and, unsurprisingly, enrolment dropped making it harder to get onto the full SCFF funding model and increase revenue.

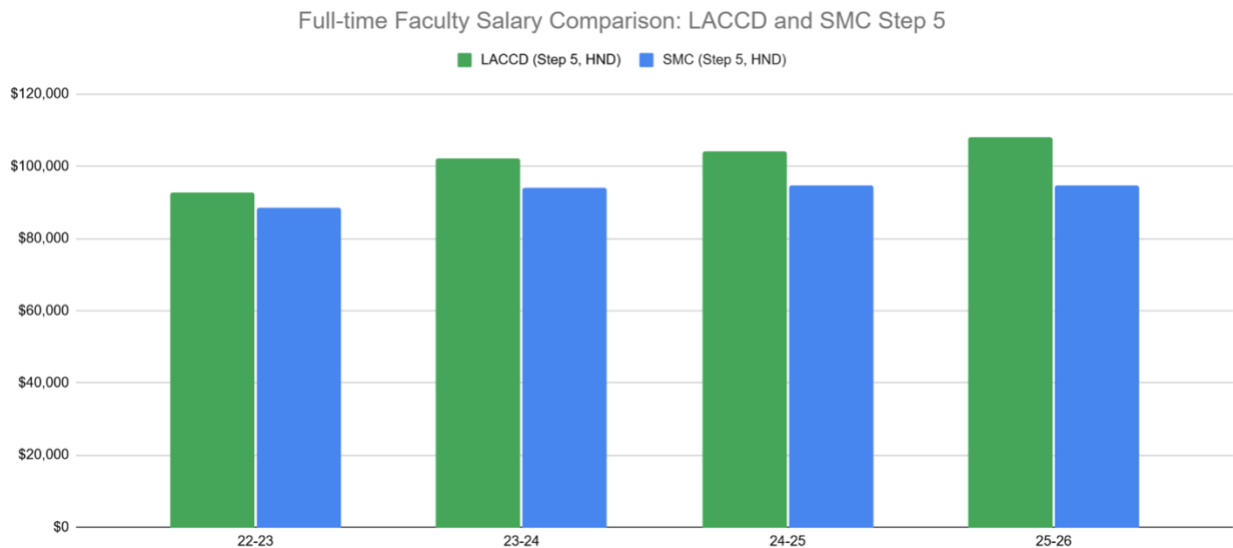
Managers and Project Managers since 2009

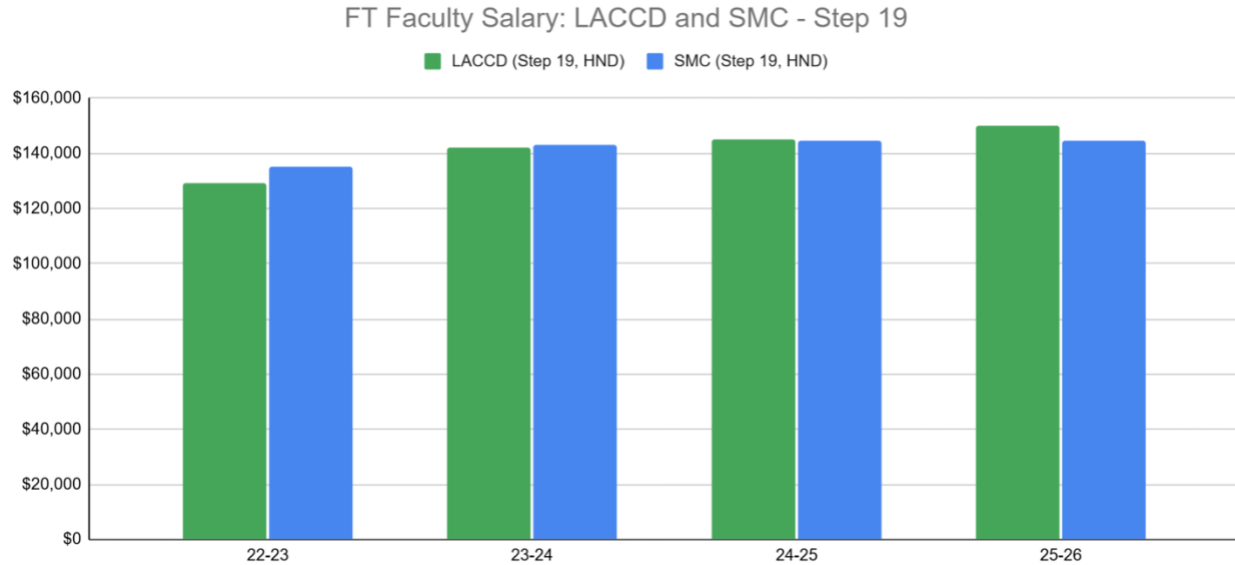


Full-time and Part-time Faculty since 2009



- Now the administration has finally realized that they have to look at themselves and that’s why they are now choosing to implement management and classified cuts to get closer to balancing their budget. But still, there has been no description of how the firing of classified folks and managers is part of a new management structure, with increased efficiencies.
- There is a plan to start looking at enrollment strategies, via a Chancellor’s Office initiative, which will involve the Academic Senate, IT, Academic Affairs, and the new VP of Student Success. This is great and long overdue, and it should help with increase revenue - as will the new plan to auto-enroll students directly from the waitlists into sections.
- Somehow there’s a myth circulating out there that faculty are not doing their share, or ignoring the situation, but that’s the exact opposite of what’s been happening.
 - Since 2018, the college has received over **\$17M** from the Chancellor’s Office specifically for hiring full-time faculty. By Fall 2025, we had only **ONE** more FTER than in Fall 2018. FTers have been retiring and are not being replaced, already saving over \$1M this year just from the difference of having PT folks teach those same classes. More savings will be had next year.
 - Since 2022 when the fully paid PT health insurance program was implemented, we’ve only claimed the 50% reimbursement, unnecessarily spending **\$4.6M** through 24-25, and an estimated **\$1.8M** this current year, and more next year.
 - We’re trying to get clarity from the district about the details of the banking that FTers have done (reducing last year’s expenditures by > \$450k, and could lead to another reduction of **\$1.5M**)
 - Our Faculty salary has fallen behind our closest competitor, LACCD. *See the next two charts:*





CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE INDEPENDENTS (CCCI) - SPRING CONFERENCE RECAP

- Every spring and fall, members of the FA leadership attend the CCCI conference, which represents a consortium of 12 independent unions, has its own legislative lobbyist, takes support/oppose positions on legislation.
- CCCI has a seat at the statewide “Consultation Council”, which is the participatory governance structure for the California Community College system, and includes reps from all the big faculty union groups, the state Academic Senate, administrators, Classified, and the Chancellor.
- Attendees share details of our local successes and challenges with other union leaders
- David Conway – CCCI’s counsel -- updates us on legislation and hot topics.

VISITING CANDIDATE FOR CA SENATE DISTRICT 24, COUNCILMEMBER [MIKE NEWHOUSE](#)

- A local attorney, Newhouse shared with the Rep assembly a bit of his biography, experience, and his objectives and priorities, if elected. He has been in the Venice-Santa Monica district for 30 years. He said he remembers when Santa Monica’s commercial district was thriving, the Promenade was a draw, homelessness was not as severe, and housing was not totally out of reach. These problems are part of what prompted him to run.
- Newhouse said it’s likely that these problems concern all the candidates running. So it’s important for him to distinguish what makes him different:
 - He identifies as a 1992 Blue Dog Bill Clinton Democrat
 - He is pro-union and has several union endorsements
 - He has a small but thriving legal practice and takes on labor cases - an important type of experience for someone who goes up to Sacramento. He does not see it as a binary of union vs. business. “We can do both. We can be strong and protect unions and we can be strong and protect business.”

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- He draws significant support from unionized building trades - and has many trade union endorsements
 - His educational background is in environmental science. He takes on environmental cases as well.
 - He grew up in the Diamond Bar area. His family was poor, and endured a series of evictions. His father was severely bipolar. When Newhouse got to college, the security of a dorm room, he said, was an important turning point. He proceeded to work his way through college as a carpenter. He said he does not share this to elicit sympathy, but to convey that when he speaks about affordability, he understands it firsthand.
 - He said his mission statement, “Let’s Rebuild California Together,” has relevance to the state’s community college system, because the CC is the place where many Californians get their life skills and job skills to participate in that building effort.
 - He referenced crime and public safety as other key priorities, positing that this should not be a concern that is framed as being antithetical to being a Democrat. Everyone needs to be able to rely on emergency services, navigate their community safely, and so on.
 - Crime is inextricably tied to the ballooning homelessness problem. He offered a disturbing stat about the number of people who die on the streets of LA County daily.
 - The involuntary commitment of homeless people incapable of making that decision themselves is an important way to get ill people off the street. His own father eventually committed suicide, but he speculates that if he had lived, he may have inevitably lived on the streets, due to his illness.
 - He is a booster of environmental science, green tech, and business and said his background and current law practice make him qualified to advance the nexus of green tech and business
 - He opened the floor to questions and comments:
 - A question about the idea of a ‘billionaires’ tax’ designed to target high-worth people in the state and use it to fund CCs, etc., vs. the concern that policy would instead drive those same sources of funding out of the state:
 - His response: While we want everyone to pay their fair share, a targeted tax like this is short-sighted and jeopardizes all Californians. Essentially, it targets 8500 high net-worth individuals who generate over half of the funding of the State’s budget - approximately 175 billion dollars. It is naive to think that kind of policy will not drive people out of the state. He cited the example of two figures who are well known in liberal California politics -- Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg – who are already engaging in some planning to move operations out of California to New Jersey.
 - Next question: When it comes to education-focused legislation in Sacramento, who would you go to get informed? For example, let’s say there is a complex bill up for a vote regarding CCs, and how they should proceed, who do you reach out to in order to learn more, before a vote?
 - His response: He would consult community college unions, to ask them what he might be missing, to educate himself. CC unions “would be my first and last call,” he said.

- With regard to a question about tax credits and incentives:
 - His response: We need to change California to a two-year budget cycle instead of the current one-year cycle. This current model hamstrings us. As you can see, the budget careens between big surpluses and deficits, but a two-year cycle would normalize such movement and allow us to build in the longer-term ups and downs. All the states that have these longer budget cycles (seven states, he said) have a higher bond rating than California.
- Question about his general support for the effort to push for legislation that would give PT faculty equity in pay, benefits, etc. –
 - His response: He raised the idea of it being based on need / income. A multi-millionaire deciding to teach a class is not in the same situation as an adjunct trying to make ends meet. He said he sees firsthand at a private institution like USC, where he teaches as an adjunct, there are a number of part-time instructors, like him, who do not need the nominal compensation. He argued there should be a mechanism to encourage the voluntary decision to forego their own personal compensation so that it can be put in a fund for deserving adjuncts.
- Next question: The 24th District is huge and widely varied - how would we know, given the radically competing interests you'd have to serve – that the needs of this community have an advocate in you?
 - His response: This State Senator position represents one million constituents. It necessitates that I spend extra time in this central part of the district, which has such a high concentration of people and business. Each state senator gets one field office for one million people. He believes that practically speaking, he will need at least two field offices to do the job right, given the size and diversity of the constituent base.
- Summary of Newhouse's closing statement:
 - Ballots are going to come out shortly, and votes are due by June 2nd. Please spread this information to your students. They traditionally don't participate in the kinds of numbers that they need to in order to be represented. Please communicate to them that they should register to vote, and that they should make a point of researching the four main candidates, who are very different from each other. These are four competing visions for this district. Please "educate your students on this and make sure they vote."

In closing, *thank you* for the work you do to keep the Association strong. Please note that our next RA meeting is scheduled for **May 14**.

Diane Arieff
SMCFA Recording Secretary | FA Communications

PS: You can connect with the FA on multiple platforms:

- ⇒ Visit [the website](#)
- ⇒ Check out the [FA's YouTube Channel](#)
- ⇒ Follow us on [Instagram](#)