

Summary April 9th, 2026

SMCFA Spring 26 Elections: Department Representative Nominations

Peter introduced Kelly Ledwith (SMCFA Chair of Elections) to discuss the nominations period for department representatives to the FA Representative Assembly, which will take place in the two weeks of the semester after spring break. The process involves a 6-week timeline: two weeks for nominations, a week for vetting nominees, two weeks for elections, and one week for certification.

SMC Nominations: Monday 4/20/26- Friday 5/01/2026

SMCFA: Voting: Monday 5/11/26- Friday 5/22/026

If you want to nominate someone else as department rep, please check with them **first** before submitting the nomination. You can nominate yourself. The vote winners will serve a 2-year term Fall 2026- Spring 2028.

FACCC elections

Mario Martinez discussed the separate FACCC (Faculty Association of California Community Colleges) elections starting on April 6th, noting that the current ballot includes races for president, vice president, governor at large for large-sized colleges, governor for part-time faculty in the northern region, and governor for retired faculty. [Mario's recommendations here](#). Faculty are encouraged to vote in the FACCC elections, the ballots come from e-ballot.com.

SMC Board of Trustees 4/7 and Presidential Search

- SMC's timeline for presidential search committee: Peter Morse and Elaine Roque will serve for the Faculty Association and **Nat Travis** was appointed as a community member. The search timeline has been adjusted to be completed by the end of August. This will allow the Board to approve their selection at their September 2026 Board meeting.
- Peter discussed recent budget cuts at the college and questioned the rationale behind these cuts, many of which affect successful and thriving programs like STEM; 40 plus students spoke in open comments at the Board in support of STEM's project manager.
- The board voted to eliminate 23 manager positions, reducing the total from 113 to 90 positions, which remains higher than other colleges in the region. (Many of those positions were vacant.) While the board accepted this proposal, they did not vote on rescinding layoff notices for the remaining classified managers and academic administrators, choosing to table these decisions in closed session. The trustees still can

make further cuts if needed, though the specific next steps for the remaining layoff notices were not determined.

- The board approved a new baccalaureate degree in cloud computing, and final approval from the state Board of Governors next month. The FA is working on an article in the faculty contract to ensure sufficient support for faculty in baccalaureate programs, and will be supporting the CSIS department as they ramp up curriculum design and marketing in order to make the Cloud Computing degree successful.

Guest John Erickson: candidate for CA State Senate's 24th District

John Erickson, a West Hollywood councilmember running for State Senate, presented his platform focused on supporting working families, public education, and progressive policies, emphasizing his experience with local government and labor endorsements.

- John addressed concerns about funding for community colleges and emphasized his commitment to consulting with working people and experts when developing legislation. He also discussed his approach to reviewing bills and creating advisory committees to ensure informed decision-making in Sacramento.
www.johnerickson4senate.com
- John plans to consult with education organizations like CFT, CCCI, and CTA on a quarterly basis to guide legislation affecting public education.
- He distinguished himself from other candidates in the race by positioning himself as the progressive champion for working people, particularly teachers, nurses, and firefighters, while highlighting his experience in West Hollywood where he focused on renter protections and affordable housing. He emphasized the importance of investing in social services and public education rather than cutting budgets.
- John shared his experience and commitment to public service, emphasizing his progressive voting record and ability to effectively advocate for community needs in Sacramento. He highlighted his approach of maintaining direct connections with constituents and promised to prioritize the district's needs over political headline-grabbing initiatives.

The final invited candidate for the Senate seat, Mike Newhouse, will attend the Representative Assembly in person on Thursday, **April 30th**, 12 noon, in Business 144.

Thank you for all you do and all your support of the Faculty Association – and remember the FA nominations period is open until Friday May 1.