



Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the following summary of our last Representative Assembly meeting, held on **Thu. May 14**. Follow the hyperlinks for more information.

FA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

- Voting period: Monday, May 18 - 5 pm, Friday May 29
- The new reps for Fall 2026 will be announced at the June 4 RA meeting

W2 LEAKS

- No one is taking blame for being responsible for the leak.
- However it seems that some of the leaked information is of the type that only LACOE has access to, and perhaps the leak happened in their organization or during or after data transfer from them to a third party W-2 vendor.
- At this count about 50 SMC employees have been affected.
- There is a paperwork process for remedying this on your federal and state returns, but that leaves the concern about stolen information and identity theft.
- If you have not yet filed your taxes or you are someone who was already affected by the leak, contact VP Chris Bonvenuto so he can add you to the list of those who will be provided with credit monitoring services by LACOE. (Many of those affected discovered that it occurred because their returns were fraudulently filed before they in fact filed their authentic returns.)
 - If you have not filed yet, it's recommended you log into or call the IRS and Franchise Tax Board to see if a return has been filed on your behalf.
 - A second tip: Go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and get a pin to file your return - the pin is an extra level of security. No one else can file your return without that pin.
 - Always open mail sent to you from the IRS and FTB, as they will notify you if a return has been filed for you from a different address.

CANVAS HACKING AND DISRUPTION

- The college did an excellent job of pulling together an effective team of people to communicate, monitor and problem solve during the shutdown of the platform
- They went beyond the base level of validation once things were operational, as an extra level of precaution.
- Faculty and students were given updates throughout the period.
- It has also sparked the beginnings of an interesting conversation about a more proactive approach:
 - what options we might want to explore if we experience a longer Canvas shutdown - one that would prompt us to need viable alternative strategies.
 - It also begs the question if we should be regularly downloading and storing Canvas materials more regularly to have instructional elements we could not get access to during the shutdown.
 - Should the college be doing anything differently about the nature of or frequency of their data backups?
 - As an aside, one member noted - some faculty members use their own systems, avoiding Canvas entirely, and they experienced no disruption, plus they avoid the claims Canvas makes on faculty course content.

MS OFFICE 365 ISSUE FOR PT FACULTY

- Their license will no longer support desktop versions of the Office Suite and the online version is not a full equivalent, as it does not include everything that faculty rely on. So this hamstring PT faculty, who need more than what's available in the online version of the product. This was a unilateral decision by Microsoft that has caused the problem. Additionally, no one communicated this change to faculty.
- Currently, the FA is working with the district to figure out how to restore PT faculty's access to the desktop version.
- In the meantime, the on-campus computers all offer complete access to the desktop suite

PAY ERRORS

- Pay errors continue. We may need to negotiate a policy of penalties for errors that hold up paychecks or delay stipends
- It's critical that a faculty person who was not paid on time check the accuracy of stipend information in the mProfessor account, and notify the FA as soon as possible if you are not getting your compensation, so we can identify the source of the problem.
- If it is a stipend, you can contact the point person for that stipend (eg. your Chair, etc.) and CC the FA on that email.

CA SD24 PRIMARY (MATT)

- We've had SMC Board Member Sion Roy, City Council member John Erickson, and most recently, Mike Newhouse come speak to our RA members. The primary is June 2, and after that we will be down to two candidates who will have their runoff in November.
- We will invite those two candidates to the RA prior to the November election and we strongly recommend you attend those RA meetings in person as an act of good citizenship.
- At that time, once we've heard from those candidates, the RA can discuss whether to make a political endorsement for this State Senate race.

STATE BUDGET

- None of the details are out there yet, but in the summary of the May Revise, these highlights:
 - Increasing COLA up to 4.32%
 - Paid pregnancy leave (14 weeks) for K-14 – something we and many others have fought for, for years.
 - Categorical increase
 - Student Support block grant increased
- A portion of the revenue generated this year must be channeled towards community colleges - all the winds have been blowing in the right direction.
- There are three giant IPOs set to debut in the state which should generate billions in tax revenue. State revenue projections are for "galactically huge" IPOs; the state has more cash on hand than most countries; federal actions and wars are also putting other pressure on the state
- Faculty groups are pushing for COLA for hold-harmless districts
- A lot more jostling will happen between now and June 15, when the budget has to be adopted

SMC BUDGET

- Given the recent actions of layoffs and furloughs, VP Bonvenuto already is stating that his \$17M deficit is reducing to around \$6M - and that is still before the inevitable "one-time" adjustments and before this May revise was released
- The cuts that have happened already are projected to be an \$11-12M cut to expenditures.

- So even if we take the VP's budget numbers at face value, he has already nearly closed his deficit gap, and this against the background of excellent State budget projections, so the outlook is positive. The college will not really know their actual situation until August. Be mindful of this when they issue their tentative budget in June, which is always, without fail, a gloomier, tighter set of projections.
- In response to an inquiry about how and when longevity compensation is calculated, some key points to note:
 - Longevity is not a 'bonus.' It is part of our compensation structure. Other colleges may have 30 steps, for example, and in lieu of that, this piece of our compensation is structured this way.
 - The percentages for longevity are now locked into the contract, independent of the college's ending fund balance in any given year, just as your annual salary does not change depending on the fund balance.
- We need to reinvigorate our international enrollment strategy, and our domestic approach to enrollment - and we don't get there by cutting sections, and letting go of more PT faculty
- The college is not shutting its doors. We will continue to update you about the budget and other relevant updates.

In closing, *thank you* for the work you do to keep the Association strong. Please note that this is our final RA meeting for spring. Have a successful close to the semester and enjoy your summer.

Diane Arieff
SMCFA Recording Secretary | FA Communications

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