



Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the following summary of our last Representative Assembly meeting, held on **Thu. June 4**. Follow the hyperlinks for more information.

MOTION APPROVING TITLE CHANGE: “EXECUTIVE SECRETARY” TO “DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS”

In order to better reflect the scope and responsibilities of the FA’s Executive Secretary, the Representative Assembly approved replacing the title “Executive Secretary” with “Director of Operations” in all six places where it appears in the SMCFA Bylaws.

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

When the slate is finalized and confirmed, results will post to the FA website.

[COLLEGEWIDE BENEFITS COMMITTEE](#) EXPLORES HEALTH BENEFIT RECOMMENDATION (Mario Martinez)

- The Committee is comprised of members drawn from the ranks of faculty, classified and management. They’re charged with recommending ways to maintain or improve the quality of employee benefits while containing costs.
- The committee met recently to discuss the pros and cons of moving part-time faculty to a health insurance plan identical to that of full-time employees. They agreed to hold a rare summer meeting to follow up on some of the remaining questions about the possible change. We expect a recommendation to be made at that meeting, and then the FA and the administration will be free to negotiate over part-time faculty health benefits.
- It’s worth keeping in mind that part of the impetus for exploring this change is the millions the SMC administration could potentially save in such a switch-over because they would be eligible for 100% reimbursement for all part-time enrollees.

STATE ELECTION RESULTS & LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER (Matt Hotsinpiller)

- As you will recall, we had three candidates for State Senate come speak directly to our assembly. At the time we issued those invitations, these three—Newhouse, Erickson, and Roy—were leading in some polls. One of them made it to the top two slots in the primary.
- Dr. Roy will return to his position on our college board since he is not in the top two [SD 24 vote getters](#). The two candidates who face off in November will be invited to speak to the RA in early fall. [Editor’s note: [John Erickson](#) (D) and [Brian Goldsmith](#) (D) are the currently leading the race.]
- If your personal schedules will allow, please do plan on attending these upcoming candidate visits in person, once we have them scheduled on our fall Representative Assembly calendar. We look forward to seeing you.

STATE BUDGET

- There are many excellent proposals in the State Senate and Assembly in terms of community college funding, adding to the strong proposal from the Governor in May. All three proposals include a higher [COLA](#). The state follows a particular formula called statutory COLA. That number is just under 3% this year, but all proposals include bringing it up to 4.3%, allowing it to also fund pregnancy-related leave.

- Important to note that the state-awarded COLA is not an automatic pass-through to salaries, so locally, we negotiate for what we consider the appropriate amount at any given time. In some years, the state has offered a COLA of 0%, but we've successfully negotiated for something. Other times, negotiations have resulted in an amount less than COLA, or something disconnected from COLA.
- Also worth noting: COLA rarely covers the actual rate of inflation.
- Watching for June 15 when the legislature must pass a budget, and the final signed agreement by June 30. Inevitably, some horse trading goes on in the interim. But regardless, the current proposals are a net positive and the final landing spot will be good news for us.

SMC BUDGET

- The [Budget Committee](#) met yesterday. As you are already aware, our college was one of several still operating under the Hold Harmless formula, which caps the amount of funds we get from the state. VP Bonvenuto, of Business Services, now says he expects us to be out of the Hold Harmless model by next year and onto the full [Student-Centered Funding Formula](#) (SCFF), which allows for revenue growth—as long as we plan to increase enrollment
- The [2026-27 Tentative budget](#) was presented
- VP of Business Services is predicting a 6.3% ending fund balance for the 26-27 academic year. That is a good start, and should only get better after he adds in one-time revenues that he traditionally omits from his tentative budget proposal.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE [Matt Hotsinpillar]

We will meet the district once again later today. We are making progress on a variety of topics. I know there has been anxiety about step, column, and longevity, but in Chris Bonvenuto's most recent presentation, he had all three incorporated in his budget. So that should lessen some of your anxiety.

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. We will resume meeting in fall semester. Have a successful close to the semester and enjoy your summer.

Diane Arieff
SMCFA Recording Secretary | FA Communications

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