Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the following summary of our last Representative Assembly meeting, held **Thu. Oct 1**. Please follow the hyperlinks for more information.

SMCFA 2026-27 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The FA Representative Assembly approved the 2026-27 Executive Committee and three Members at Large:

- Bernadette O'Leary, Psychology
- Sue Lee, Life Sciences
- Rostom Sarkissian, Emeritus

FA VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Reprographics Hours

   We have received reports of understaffing in Reprographics causing limited hours, which are negatively impacting the faculty workload. FA is aware of these issues and actively advocating for appropriate staffing and expanded hours.

2. Facilities

   We received reports of heating/cooling issues in classrooms. Uncomfortable environments in classrooms are a working condition issue that FA responds to.

3. Keenan Training

   - Flex hours can be used for Keenan training and can be reported via mProfessor. Flex hours are currently the only way to be compensated for Keenan training sessions, as we do not receive additional compensation for these trainings.
     - Exception: faculty who teach only at Emeritus, as they are not required to complete flex hours.
   - PT faculty are compensated for Workplace Violence training because it is SMC specific. After completing the training, PT faculty submit a form to receive their compensation.

FACCC REPORT (Mario Martinez)

A. FACCC Legislation

1. **AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry):**
   Provides up to 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave for community college educators and classified staff, and it is in addition to other sick or personal leaves. The leave is for absence from duty because of pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions, as provided. The bill would authorize the paid leave to begin before and continue after childbirth if the employee is actually disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or a related condition. (**Funded and enacted directly through the 2026-27 California State Budget, effective January 1, 2027).**

2. AB 2694 (Alvarez) and AB 2301 (Soria):
   Expand community college baccalaureate degree programs to better meet regional and industry needs. **(signed)**
3. AB 2417 (Zbur):
   Provides part-time faculty with Social Security retirement options and the right for newly hired employees to get a full cost / benefit breakdown of Defined Benefit, Cash Balance, and Social Security options. **(signed)**
4. AB 2121 (Berman):
   Allows community college districts to temporarily exclude local unrestricted expenditures used to backfill lost federal discretionary grants for student support from their current expense of education calculations. *This bill weakens the 50% Law, which requires each district to spend at least half of its current expense of education each fiscal year on direct instructional costs* (**signed on 9/27**).

B. FACCC Legislative Priorities for 2027

- AB1705 Reform
- SCFF Reform
- AI Guardrails
- 50% Law Protection
- Reserve Caps using language from the audit
- Academic Freedom

C. 2025-108 California Community Colleges Reserve Funds Audit

Districts in the California Community Colleges (CCC) system routinely save excess revenue they have earned or received—referred to as *reserves* in this report. They may do this for various purposes, such as maintaining cash flow and to be able to respond to significant unplanned costs. Government accounting standards direct districts to develop adequate reserve policies and maintain sufficient reserves. The six districts audited set minimum reserve policies, but not all had *maximum* reserve policies. Further, four districts maintained higher reserves than their own maximum reserve policy or statewide median reserve level, with three having significantly higher reserves. Districts with high reserves did not take steps to spend them, despite opportunities to use those funds to improve student success and support services. Further, none of the districts have conducted risk analyses when determining the reserve levels they need.

CA SENATE DISTRICT 24 ZOOM VISIT: JOHN ERICKSON: www.johnerickson4senate.com

1. Erickson is a West Hollywood councilmember and former West Hollywood Mayor, currently running for State Senate on a progressive platform, with a focus on supporting working families, public education, and addressing the affordability crisis.

2. Support for Public Education
   - Erickson shared his background of growing up in a rural area served by a community college and experienced the impact community colleges have on transforming lives. Witnessing a friend teach at 5 different universities as a part-time instructor to make ends meet familiarized him with the challenges educators face.
   - UCLA is closing their two remaining on-site daycare centers that faculty and staff rely on. He views this as a political decision and states that politicians who claim to support education

should fund education.
- Erickson expressed that community colleges are key to affordability and believes significant investment should be directed to community colleges. He believes that executive salaries should be reduced to redirect funds to educators.

3. Views on Education Legislation
   - **AB1705:** Erickson is aware of this bill and does not agree with it. He recognizes that most lobbyists do not advocate for community college interests, but community colleges face the consequences of legislative decisions.
   - **Prop 13:** Erickson is interested in Prop 13 reform to fund colleges and provide affordable education so students can earn their degrees without taking on massive debt. He acknowledges that SMC is experiencing funding problems.
   - **Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF):** He understands that the SCFF will negatively impact SMC and other colleges, looks forward to discussing this issue with us.

4. Labor-Focused Platform
   - Erickson states that he is a labor-focused politician with a people-supported, grassroots campaign. He is endorsed by a variety of unions, including CFT, CTA, and CSEA.

5. Views on AI
   - He recognizes the potential utility of AI, but believes we need to be careful in how we approach it. Wants to ensure that AI is not replacing human jobs and that we are correctly regulating it in CA.

6. Questions from attendees
   a) How will you resist lobbyists who ostensibly claim to have students' interests in mind?
      - He states that he looks for coalitions and plans to have advisory groups of educators who can analyze proposed legislation. He encouraged participants to examine who is supporting him and who is supporting his opponent. Erickson cited his extensive public service experience and believes the state has been "setting its budget on the backs of working people."

   b) California provides funding to community colleges to fund PT faculty healthcare. There is a fear that this funding will end — what will you do to maintain it?
      - Erickson believes healthcare is a human right and wants to ensure that those funds are maintained and are being spent for their dedicated purpose.

In closing, *thank you* for the work you do to keep the Association strong. Please note that our next RA meeting of the semester is scheduled for **Thu. Oct. 15, 2026.**

Sarah Kurtoic
SMCFA Representative | FA Communications

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- Visit the website
- Check out the FA's YouTube Channel
- Follow us on Instagram

Also, please be sure to check out our Tuesday Truths emails and weekly messages from the FA President, Peter Morse!