Greetings!

To assist you in reporting to your department colleagues, please see the following summary of our last Representative Assembly meeting, held **Thu. Oct 29**. Please follow the hyperlinks for more information.

SMCFA 2026-2027 BUDGET

The budget was presented by the Treasurer Kym McBride and approved by the RA.

FA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CCCI Fall Conference recap

- The CCCI attorneys Patty Lim and David Conway provided an update regarding the implementation of AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry). This bill provides up to 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave for community college educators and classified staff.

  Key details regarding the leave policy include:

  - **Pregnancy Disability Leave:** You will receive 100% of your salary and benefits for up to 14 weeks. Because this is disability pay, a note from your physician specifying the required duration of medical leave is required.
  - **Family Bonding Leave:** Once your physician-authorized disability leave ends, you are eligible for up to 12 weeks of Family Bonding leave.
  - **Pay During Family Bonding Leave:** You must first use your accumulated paid sick leave. If your accrued sick leave runs out before the 12 weeks are complete, you will transition to Differential Pay (50% of your current salary) for the remainder of the leave period.
- SMC is proud to have pay parity across academic fields to ensure fair salaries for all faculty groups, which is not the case at all colleges. Long Beach City College recently settled a lawsuit for paying PT faculty less than minimum wage when accounting for work outside the classroom (prep, grading, office hours, etc.). Our college is not in that situation because FA negotiated a salary schedule that compensates PT faculty for this work.
- Title II discussions
  The labor attorneys at CCCI clarified that individual faculty members do not face personal legal liability if some materials in their courses are found to be inaccessible. This is an institutional responsibility, not an individual faculty member responsibility. While this does not give faculty license to be discriminatory, the district needs to provide appropriate support in bringing teaching materials into Title II compliance.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UPDATE

The Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Candace Jones as the new SMC Superintendent- President, who is currently the vice president of administrative & business services and chief business officer at Long Beach City College.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

We continue to have regular meetings with the District's negotiating team. Until a new contractual agreement is reached, our job protections, benefits, and salary structure from the **previous contract** remain in force.

STATE AND COLLEGE BUDGET UPDATE

This year's state budget continues to improve and receipts are currently 10% above projections, about $5 billion more than anticipated, with historically high cash reserves. As communicated in the last budget meeting, the district anticipates the college's ending fund balance could be $2.5 million higher than originally projected and stated we are in a much better fiscal position than last year.

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. Nov. 12, 2026.**

Sarah Kurtoic
SMCFA Representative | FA Communications

Connect with the FA on multiple platforms:
→ 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!