Faculty Advocates Score Big Win for More FT Positions

Despite some disappointing setbacks in last year’s budget battles over the new on-line college and funding formula, faculty advocates are celebrating the designation of $100 million this year for top faculty priorities: $50 million ongoing to add new full-time faculty positions; and $50 million one-time to expand paid office hours for part-time faculty. Working with our partners in the California Community College Independents (CCCI) and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC), we have already started pressing for the State to expand those investments next year.

And we’re seeking new mandates to increase to 75% full-time faculty and once we reach that goal, also eliminate the 67% cap on part-time teaching.

Locally, two spots on the 4CD Governing Board will be open in November: Ward 3 (Martinez; Concord; Pleasant Hill); and Ward 4 (Danville; San Ramon; Clayton; Byron; Discovery Bay). Four candidates are running in Ward 3: Joe Muthoo; Michael Menesini; Rebecca Barrett; and Murray Bishop. In Ward 4, there are two candidates: Andy Li and Abram Wilson. The UF has invited all of the candidates to meet with our E-Board, and we are hoping to host a candidate’s forum in October. Expect more on this subject soon.

President’s Message

Pulling together for the Collective Good

Last week, our three Academic Senate presidents (from CCC, DVC and LMC), all three UF vice presidents and I went out to dinner to discuss faculty goals for this semester. We talked about recent wins and what these might mean for us this year: $50 million in new money for full-time hires statewide means about $1.1 million for our district, which could be worth 20-25 new full-time positions over and above replacing retirees. An additional $50 million in “one-time” part-time office-hour money (also $1.1 million for 4CD), may help us move the District closer to pay-per-load and fully prorated office hours for part-timers, especially if we can get the State to make the allocation on-going next year. And with the 16-week calendar, we have confirmed that our next calendar proposal can include a “finals week,” like we have done in the past. There was much enthusiasm on this issue at the State and in our district that we helped to clarify.

We also talked about recent “losses,” and the challenges they pose: the looming problems a new funding formula could cause, for example. And we talked about changes where a lot will depend on how well faculty work together to make our district a more attractive place to work — whether it’s our strong voice in distance-education policies, and of course, campus safety and academic freedom. We face so many challenges, it is nice to know how dedicated and passionate our faculty leaders are.

This year, our academic senate presidents will be serving on the UF E-Board, and this should strengthen our partnerships even further going forward. We face big fights to protect and improve faculty working conditions, but I am optimistic.

Legislative Report

Faculty Advocates Score Big Win for More FT Positions

We, the undersigned members of the United Faculty, do nominate:

for the position of:

1. Print Name: ____________________________
   Signature: ______________________________

2. Print Name: ____________________________
   Signature: ______________________________

3. Print Name: ____________________________
   Signature: ______________________________

4. Print Name: ____________________________
   Signature: ______________________________

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   Signature: ______________________________

10. Print Name: ____________________________
    Signature: ______________________________
Staff and part-time faculty have a long way to go in this broken agreement. In agreeing how funds allocated to “parity” will be distributed to UF activities. 4CD already provides some support in the form of release time (two FTEF) for UF leaders. This is helpful, but as we have noted for many years, it is less support than many other districts provide. (For example, Foohill/De Anza gets four FTE in release time to run their faculty union.) Even a small change in this area could make a big difference to the UF, so this is an area we will raise in collective bargaining this spring.

If you are a UF member, we thank you for your support. The Janus decision changes nothing for you personally at this time, and there is nothing you need to do. If you are a UF member, the UF share fee will no longer be collected from your paycheck. The UF will continue to represent you in negotiations and other contractual matters, exactly as before, but unless you join the Union, we will no longer have the support of your fees (and of course, non-members cannot cannot cast votes,UF elections).

To keep contributing to the UF, all you need to do is join. Call the UF Office at 925-680-1771 or send an email to uf@uf4cd.org. Our Office Administrator, Terri Adame, will send you a member application to complete.

The UF is proud of our history of success in representing all faculty in 4CD, and we are proud too that ours are some of the lowest faculty-union dues in all of California. Our contract is in good shape, and our sense is that this will be an unsettling historical moment, as threats to public education, to our students, and we are proud too that ours are some of the lowest faculty-union dues in all of California. Our contract is in good shape, and our sense is that this will be an unsettling historical moment, as threats to public education, to our students, and we are proud too that ours are some of the lowest faculty-union dues in all of California. Our contract is in good shape, and our sense is that this will be an unsettling historical moment, as threats to public education, to our students, and we are proud too that ours are some of the lowest faculty-union dues in all of California. 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