Faculty Association Zoom Meeting: May 5, 2020

Rather than college representative reports given, multiple conversations were held on the following topics:

1. **Approval of the last meeting’s minutes** – Diana made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28th, 2020 Zoom meeting, Garth second, unanimous approval with no abstentions.

2. **Academic Senate** – Susan Mills sent out a detailed email regarding the fall semester. STEM, CTE, and Arts/Performing Arts will have hybrid labs for classes that must have face-to-face interaction.

3. **Elections** – the electronic ballots are scheduled to go out on Wednesday May 6, 2020 and will be open for a total of two weeks.

4. **Course Caps for Fall 2020** – Rhonda reported that the RCCD administration approached the Faculty Association and the Academic Senates Presidents with a proposal to temporally increase the course caps for the Summer and fall 2020 semester. The District’s proposal calls for a minimal increase. The proposal would raise the course cap for any course with the current cap of 40 and above to a cap of 45 and any course with the current cap of 30 to 35 except English 1A and Comp 1. The Science courses caps will also set at 45 while all labs and specialty courses will retain their current caps.

5. The administration has maintained that if we do not increase the course caps even at a very minimal rate RCCD will be underfunded due to the economic fall out of the Covid-19 pandemic. This modest increase will save money, increase revenue, and help avoid layoffs. This will also help to avoid cancelling sections and save part-time faculty employment.

6. **Accessibility** – It was reported that there have been numerous part-time faculty members across the district that have contacted the Faculty Association Reps regarding threats to
their future employment. It seems that there have been threats made regarding low accessibility scores and a loss of classes in the future. The Faculty Association wants to make it clear this is not acceptable. Faculty need to work on making their classes accessible to the best of their ability and work with Distance Education to help make those changes.

7. Dariush suggested that the Association must hold the line in its negotiations with the District regarding meaningful institutional support for faculty in making their online courses accessible and ADA complaint. Dariush suggested we need hands on experienced staff at each of the three colleges providing much needed assistance to faculty tackling accessibility and ADA complaint issues in their online courses.

8. **FLEX Trac** – Rhonda reported that FLEX Trac is still not working remotely for faculty to use in their homes. It seems that there is an issue with the license.

9. **PAC** – Dariush proposed transferring $10,000 to the Political Action Committee account to support the upcoming trustees’ elections. Rhonda made the motion, Fabian second, and it was a unanimous vote.

10. **Enrollment management** – Jeff discussed the need for a shift in the focus from efficiency and that the online format is more difficult for students. Many students purposely do not choose online because it does not match their learning styles. We will mostly likely see this influence in our enrollment data while we are online.

11. **Membership** – Emily asked whether it was possible to be in both the CSEA and Faculty Association at the same time? Yes, if the member is paying dues to both.