



UPDATE

October 30, 2006

• A Publication of the All Faculty Association at Santa Rosa Junior College •

The Community College Initiative: Funding Stability in Our Lifetime

When you leave Safeway or Whole Foods and see a person gathering signatures for a ballot measure, please stop and chat. He or she may be collecting signatures for the 2008 Community College ballot initiative.

This ballot measure is officially known as the "Community College Governance Funding Stabilization and Student Fee Reduction Act." If community college organizations successfully collect 598,105 valid registered voter signatures before January 22, 2007, the measure will be placed on the June 2008 ballot. Because signature gathering doesn't always yield valid signatures, the campaign is targeting collection of one million signatures.

If placed on the ballot, the initiative will accomplish the following:

- End the current ineffective practice under Prop. 98 of funding community colleges based on enrollment growth in K-12. Community colleges would finally receive funding based on the original guaranteed percentage of Prop. 98 funds.
- End the current practice of cutting funding to college districts when property taxes decline. Instead, the State would be required to make up the difference with general fund dollars.
- Cut student fees to \$15 per unit and prohibit the legislature from increasing fees by more than the percentage change in per capita personal income, as determined by the Department of Finance.
- Ensure that fee revenue stays within the community college system. Currently fees collected in local districts revert to the State's general fund, where they are eventually distributed to districts as general apportionment.
- Establish in the State Constitution a system of independent, locally elected and governed community college districts.

- This measure would also allow the Board of Governors and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, not the Governor, to hire senior staff. Essentially, the California Community College System would have the same governance structure as the CSU and UC systems.

For SRJC this would mean that every year we would be better able to predict the amount of funding we would receive from the State. In turn, negotiation of monetary items (salary and benefits) would become easier because we would not be living in fear about whether or not the State Budget would be favorable to the community college system. After the last three years, the AFA Negotiating Team is especially looking forward to a time when we can negotiate without the fear of budget cuts affecting every decision.

On October 11, the AFA Executive Council authorized the use of AFA Political Action Committee funds to pay students to collect signatures for the initiative. These students, supervised by Robert Ethington, Student Activities Advisor, will receive \$50.00 for every 20 pages of signatures they turn in. The Executive Council believes that this kind of investment will guarantee a better future for us all.

We are asking students, faculty and staff to contribute to the campaign by gathering signatures on campus and in your neighborhoods, or making a contribution to the AFA PAC. This measure will create the kind of stable funding we've dreamed about having, which, in turn, will make all of our lives easier. The AFA Executive Council and the AFA Negotiating Team urge you to support the initiative drive and to involve yourself in gathering signatures. If you are interested in collecting signatures, please call the AFA office at 527-4731 for forms and instructions.

**AFA/District Contract
available online at
www.santarosa.edu/afa/**

The 2005-07 AFA/District Contract, including salary schedules, can be easily accessed on AFA's web site, where you can also find AFA publications, Council members' contact information, various application forms, and other helpful information for SRJC faculty.

**Jan. 17 Deadline for
Movement to Class D**

In order to be eligible for a pay adjustment retroactive to the beginning of the Fall 2006 semester, all continuing adjunct and regular faculty who have earned doctorate degrees that fit within in the newly expanded definition for Class D placement (e.g., M.D., D.D.S, D.V.M.) have until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2007, to submit the required verification necessary to complete the Salary Placement Form to the Human Resources Department. If you have any questions, contact Gina Waggoner in the Human Resources Department at 527-4786 or gwaggoner@santarosa.edu.

Retirement Workshops

Presentation and Q & A
by Ken Jones, local CalSTRS
Regional Benefits Counselor

Friday, November 3, 2006
in the Doyle Library
Media Teaching Room #2
1 – 2:30 pm (Regular Faculty)
2:30 – 4 pm (Adjunct Faculty)

1½ hours of Flex credit (pending)

Questions? Contact the AFA office at
527-4731 or afa@santarosa.edu

Sponsored by AFA

**Have you signed up
for Direct Deposit yet?**

Automatic Direct Deposit of 10th-of-the-month paychecks for adjunct faculty and regular faculty with overloads is now an option.

Contact the Payroll Department to sign up: Jackie at 521-7857 (for adjunct faculty) or Lisa at 527-4200 (for regular faculty) .



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