

AFA Report to Board of Trustees, 11/9/21, AFA President, Sean Martin

President Battenfeld, Trustees, President Chong, Colleagues and other members of the community--

I'll begin this report by noting some accomplishments from the negotiations table. We've recently posted the completed side-letter allowing for a safe return to expanded in-person offerings for the Spring 2022 term. We've also finalized an MOU establishing a Founding Chair for the coming Ethnic Studies Department. We'd like to congratulate Dr. Emmanuel Raymundo for being selected for that position. Ethnic Studies will be the first new department created since the origin of AFA and we're eager to support the District and faculty in order to ensure a successful endeavor.

Again, we'd like to thank our District partners for their work in these collaborative efforts. We also appreciate also the District's effort led by Vice Presidents Kate Jolley and Pedro Avila to ensure COVID Protocols for the current semester are followed, allowing people to work and study in safe conditions. We wish to publicly recognize their active effort to seek faculty feedback and to respond effectively and in a timely manner. Conditions, along with the confidence of faculty, have dramatically improved on this front. We know also there are many people across our campuses, in management, among our Classified colleagues, as well as faculty and students, who make this effort possible.

As mentioned in previous reports to this body, AFA remains dedicated to our outreach effort to welcome and encourage members of our diverse unit to join AFA, participate in our meetings, run for office and engage in our numerous initiatives. We have, and are likely to make additional missteps going forward, but we remain undeterred in our

good faith effort to establish a more diverse and representative leadership so that we can serve all of our members more effectively.

Complementary to this internal effort, we've been working with our affiliates in North Bay Jobs with Justice on a number of fronts: In particular, we continue to engage in the initiative to support farmworkers in their effort to establish safety and respect during wildfire season. We've also recently met with affiliates in the Building Trades to work on issues of common interest for our students and our community. Cherie Cabral, from the North Bay Building and Construction Trades Council, who you heard from during open comments, was among those leaders we met with. We support our sisters and brothers in labor and look forward to working with the District to ensure SRJC programs fulfil our promise to provide opportunities for students to move into meaningful careers with dignity and salaries sufficient to meet their needs and the needs of their families. Union work is equity work.

Finally, on October 21-23 AFA Officers attended the bi-annual conference of the California Community College Independents. A major theme of this conference was headed off with a report by Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) outlining the increasing, and alarming influence exercised by external organizations such as the Campaign for College Opportunity and other Corporate Philanthropic Organizations such as the Lumina and Gates Foundations over our system and local districts. A common feature of these organizations' efforts is the systematic disenfranchisement of faculty and other stakeholders along with a significant intrusion on the autonomy of local governing boards. As a result, our College has increasingly become beholden to these external entities and their monied interests at the expense of local constituents and community stakeholders. The resources we expend in meeting the demands of

regulations and legislation these influencers have imposed on our District, often in direct conflict with system participants such as the Community College League of California, extracts precious resources that would be better spent in serving our students and our community. It is AFA's view that faculty and District leaders have a common cause in resisting these organizations and their predatory behavior.

To that end, AFA is at the disposal of any members of the Board or other SRJC members who are interested in joining us in the effort to preserve our institution of higher education as a public good, answerable to the community we serve.

Thank you for your time.