

AFA Report to the Board of Trustees, 12/14/21, AFA President, Sean Martin

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

Today, I'm taking the opportunity this report offers me to express my gratitude to you, members of the Board of Trustees, along with all of my colleagues serving in leadership roles among the Faculty, Classified, Administration, and Management, for your work to make Santa Rosa Junior College function in the interest of our students and our community.

Though, in our respective roles, we are sometimes required to advocate from adversarial perspectives on contentious matters, it is important, from time to time, to recognize that we are all advocating for the general will and best interest of the District. In that light, I wish to celebrate one common interest we all share, namely the preservation of our institution as such, its legal standing, its venues of deliberation and its governing processes. These structures allow for inclusive and reasoned debate while protecting our beloved college from the whims of autocrats and popular pathos alike. I think I understand those who, in their righteous urgency, become impatient with the pace of institutional decision making. Of course, there is a time and place for civil disobedience. But, as Gandhi, King and other champions of social justice would be the first to assert, such instances must remain the exception, rather than the rule. Thus, I admonish my colleagues to resist calls to bypass or otherwise dismantle these structures upon which we depend to synthesize all, and not only the most vociferous, voices among us.

With that I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday break and offer the balance of my time as a modest gift to the participants in this session.

