

Dear Colleagues,

The English Department shares the utter outrage that has been expressed on email, among students, in the *PD*, and beyond our college in the past five days. We feel the abrupt cancelling of summer school is just the latest example of an administration who has lost touch with the mission of the college. We urge everyone to re-read the College Mission statement as we move forward to get beyond this crisis and ask: *Are we truly serving our students?*

The English Department believes that the College's #1 priority is OUR STUDENTS. They are why this institution exists. They are why we come to work every day. Their successes are the primary reason why we have enjoyed a stellar reputation as a top community college in this nation. So when the senior administration cavalierly canceled most summer classes last Thursday, instead of our college's reputation shining brightly, the administration's utter incompetence is shining ever so brightly. It is blinding. The multi-layered collateral damage cancelling summer classes would cause, so eloquently stated in numerous emails from all over campus, is unfathomable. The only solution is a full reinstatement of face-to-face summer session classes, as printed in the summer schedule of classes. That's easy.

What is not so easy is addressing the deeper, systemic, structural problems at the administrative level. As a first step to addressing real change, some of us suggested that a firing of all senior administrators is in order. Then we came to a different idea. The two vice-presidents who have abused their power through deception and dishonesty that fomented this crisis have announced their retirements this summer. Neither one of them has assumed an iota of responsibility for pulling the trigger on the summer school cancellation. Nor have they attended any of the faculty or student meetings to account for their actions. We ask that they resign now, effective immediately. This will be a first step to ensuring that future administrators understand there will be consequences to violating our shared governance principles and straying from our College Mission.

However, what will remain is our need for

- true shared governance
- true, honest negotiating with AFA to reach a new contract
- a new academic vice president who truly believes in the mission of SRJC and demonstrates trust in and respect for the faculty so that we can work free of the micromanagement that has decimated our departments and programs
- a new vice president of finance who understands that financial decisions must be driven by the needs of students, and the faculty and staff who are on the ground working with our students; and one who will answer Warren Ruud's budget questions; and one who will open the accounting books, so that we can have a fair, transparent discussion on budgetary matters across all of the shared governance bodies
- an independent audit of the College budgetary process

These needs are much more complicated and long-term. And they require true, competent leadership.

We support a resolution of NO CONFIDENCE in the senior administration; however, we believe Dr. Chong deserves a chance to prove himself. For those of you who were around in 1996, you may remember that the Board allowed President Agrella, who committed far more egregious acts against the faculty, to stay in his position and redeem himself. (Let's just say after public humiliation, he eventually became a humbler, more connected leader. Among other things, he took a pay cut, *started* attending Academic Senate meetings, and taught a math class.)

As we move forward to building a new foundation of renewed trust, transparency, and collaboration, the English Department stands committed with all of you to steer our beloved SRJC back on course.

In solidarity,

The English Department of SRJC

*Sent bcc to DL.STAFF.FAC.ALL*

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*-- AFA is working for you. The strength of faculty working together.*