

Dear Colleagues,

The Social Sciences Department supports the resolution of No Confidence in senior leadership that will be presented at today's Academic Senate Meeting. Like so many on this campus and across our county, our department was shocked when the VPAA announced the cuts for summer. Soon after the overwhelming criticism over this decision, Dr. Chong apologized, pledged to work with faculty, staff, and students, and decided to take a week to re-consider this decision. We are glad to see the recent email from the President's office saying that Summer and Fall are fully reinstated.

While we are glad that Summer and Fall are back, as Social Scientists we can't help but question the intentions of this past week's actions. We wonder how could Dr. Chong and his management team not see coming the uproar that this decision would cause? Anyone who has been on our campus over these past few years has been very aware of faculty's concerns about the erosion of shared governance. For our president to say, "I royally screwed up" is an important step, but it is different from admitting that faculty were left out of this decision possibly on purpose. One is left to wonder if Thursday's email had anything to do with faculty's commitment to Rank 10.

We believe that our college is at a very serious crossroads. We hope that this Vote of No Confidence will be a strong enough message to Bailey Hall that faculty, students, and staff need to be seen as serious partners in shared governance. While these are very stressful and trying times, the Social Sciences Department appreciates hearing so many different voices in calling for a better SRJC. What a wonderful way to honor our college's rich legacy.

Thanks very much indeed,

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