

Laney...-DAS-...Report

October 2nd—October 15th

Hi All,

As many of you are hopefully aware shortly after the last Faculty Senate meeting I called for a Special Meeting for DAS to discuss a vote of no confidence and/or censure against the Chancellor and/or the Board of Trustees. This is the email I sent DAS:

From: Blake S. Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 12:02:10 PM
To: District Academic Senate
Subject: BoT Finance Work Group???

I just learned that there's a Board of Trustees Finance Workgroup now meeting tomorrow that no current faculty, staff, or students are involved with that includes a Oakland District 6 city council candidate and Carl Chan and Alice Lai-Bitker (both of whom supported the A's stadium)...The workgroup is fairly concerning because amongst other topics they are discussing a "Plan to Mitigate Structural Deficit" which means either additional revenue (sale/rental of land perhaps?) or budget cuts. And both of these things don't seem to merit the inclusion of faculty, staff, or students from the outset?

My question for all of us is what is the point that we acknowledge that the District Trustees and the Chancellor have done absolutely nothing to indicate they are interested in meaningfully collaborating OR consulting with DAS, or anyone not an administrator, and what, if anything, are we going to actually DO about it?

I have no confidence in either the Trustees or the Chancellor to pursue the best interests of our students and Colleges, I have no confidence that either the Trustees or the Chancellor are positively carrying out our mission and values based on their ongoing behavior, and I have no confidence that either of these things are going to change absent dramatic intervention.

I do believe DAS has a responsibility to our faculty and our community--especially our students--to communicate the extent to which the District Trustees and Chancellor are operating without our involvement and inclusion and I do believe the only way to do this is through public censure or a vote of no confidence.

I request we hold a special DAS meeting to discuss this next Tuesday, Oct. 16 and, per our bylaws, I ask that 4 others join me in requesting the meeting to meet the 40% threshold our Constitution requires for special meetings...

Blake

10/02 DAS Meeting

The 10/02 DAS meeting was most notable for Chancellor Laguerre's presence to discuss ONEPeralta. This was not a productive discussion because DAS learned for the first time that the Chancellor had decided to hire an interim VC of IT for "12-18" months without consultation and despite the IT's preference that an interim not be hired. We also learned that there was no budget, no timetable, and no plan to complete ONEPeralta a month after it was "paused" and former VC Cole was prematurely placed on administrative leave. There was a lot of frustration at DAS...

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10/09 DAS Meeting

The following was the starting point for conversation at the Special DAS Meeting to discuss a vote of no confidence and/or censure against the Chancellor and/or the Board of Trustees. Details of the meeting I previously emailed out.

Context

The District Academic Senate's role is to represent faculty's collective 10+1 powers and responsibilities and, given that certain elements of 10+1 are being undermined/ignored by the current District administration, there is a need to both communicate the current situation to faculty at the 4 Colleges and formulate a common response to protect and expand, where necessary, faculty prerogatives such as consultation regarding 10+1 matters.

Background (Grievance précis)

- Repeated and ongoing instances of failures to consult and collaborate with faculty on central 10+1 issues including, especially, institutional planning and budget preparation.
- Results that include a gross distortion of the District general budget in favor of the District Office and "Central Services" at the expense of the Colleges.
- An ongoing breakdown of shared governance at the District level that has marginalized faculty, staff, and students through reduced membership in shared governance committees and has frequently included instances of ignoring or circumventing shared governance at the District and College level.
- A current fiscal outlook that includes a currently masked c. \$6 million deficit that led to c. \$4 million in hiring freezes that were proposed and ultimately imposed by the District without proper consultation and were borne disproportionately by the Colleges.
- Recent efforts by the Board of Trustees to insert themselves in day-to-day operations of the District that include facilities and general operations, IT, and financial services.

Process for Public Discussion/Engagement/Vote

1. The District Academic Senate should draw up a full listing of present grievances related to the Chancellor and/or Board of Trustees.
2. This set of grievances should be communicated widely to the College Faculty Senates, the Peralta Federation of Teachers, and the senates and unions of the Peralta community for the solicitation of comment/responses/recommendations for a set period of time (2 weeks?).
3. At the end of the period for comment/responses/recommendations DAS should reconvene to revise its set of grievances as necessary and to decide if it wishes to formally pass a vote of no confidence in and/or censure against the Chancellor and/or Board of Trustees, wishes to pass a resolution to present the grievances to the Chancellor and/or Board for redress, or does not wish to pass on the grievances at all.

Result

Regardless of the outcome regarding no confidence/censure, the District Academic Senate has to take on a more active role to communicate with and engage the Peralta faculty, and community, to more actively use, support, and protect our 10+1 responsibilities in the short- and long-term interests of the Peralta Community...

DAS decided to move forward with the proposed process not tied to a specific timetable except to aim to complete information gathering and conversations with College faculty by the end of this semester.