

Laney...-DAS-...Report November 6th—November 19th

Hi All,

Welcome to the latest iteration of why the District is still in a crisis we don't want to talk about and why we aren't going to do anything about it (aka the "denial isn't limited to Climate Change and Chancellors" bad air edition!)...

November's been a somewhat eventful month between Trustee elections and the associated, limited, drama and the passage of Measure E (continuing Measure B from 2021-2028) and Measure G (a school bond that will be funding Peralta for, probably, 10-12 years before the next one...).

Unfortunately neither of these measures, nor the Trustee elections, will actually positively impact the 3 major challenges Peralta continues to do little about: 1) our declining enrollment and 2) our structural deficit and unsustainable financial structure, 3) our general malaise and inertia related to 1 and 2.

11/6 DAS Meeting

The 11/6 DAS meeting was unusually productive as a rump DAS, nobody from COA attended, passed a resolution calling on the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees to quickly (hahahahah) resolve the ongoing issues regarding hourly employees. A motion was also passed requesting that an update be provided regarding ONEPeralta (remember that?). There will be no meaningful update but it's good to keep up appearances!

DAS remains largely marginalized in terms of day-to-day operations at the District level because collectively the District's shared governance process ("PBIM" _ remains broken and there's relatively little interest/ability from both administration and constituency groups (like classified and faculty) to do the work that would be necessary to create something more functional. ^_(\`)/_/_/

Post-Election Update: State of the District (It's STILL Bad Folks!)

Major outcomes that will directly impact the District to varying degrees moving forward are that Measure E and Measure G passed easily, Lindy Handy was reelected as the Area 3 Trustee by about 800 votes, and Cindi Reiss was elected as the Area 5 Trustee by about 15,000 votes (beating incumbent Bill Riley). What this means for faculty:

- Measure E's passage (the Measure B extension) is a continuation of the status quo in that there's no additional money being generated, but this does mean the District avoids the nightmare scenario of having a \$14 million deficit in 2021 and having full- and part-time layoffs. Instead it will be c. \$6 million and only part-time faculty are likely to be laid off. Yay.
- Measure G's passage (the \$800 million version of Measure A) means that the District will have significant resources to pay back the construction

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companies and developers that funded over 90% of the “Friends of Peralta” campaign as we, hopefully, see some capital projects started to replace and/or upgrade our aging facilities. The challenge here will be to see what actually gets built (from Measure A it’s surprisingly little) and how much of the money is actually focused on students (again, from Measure A it’s been surprisingly little). Nonetheless, this is how the state of California chooses to (not) fund public education so we’re left with this for about the next decade to fund whatever it is we ultimately do...

- Linda Handy’s close reelection changes little given that she’s been on the Board for 16 years. The main outcome as it relates to faculty is that relations between Trustee Handy and the PFT, which endorsed and campaigned for her opponent Corean Todd, have worsened.
- The victory of Cindi Reiss will likely change some elements of the Board’s functioning as Trustee Reiss was endorsed and supported by the PFT as a “change candidate” and will enter the Board facing the expectation that she live up to that billing. Her election also changes the factions on the Board as the “status quo” (“Everything is fine.”) faction of Handy, Brown, Withrow, and Riley has now been reduced to 3 while the “change” faction (Gonzalez-Yuen and Weinstein) has likely added their own 3rd member. This leaves Trustee Bonilla as a swing vote barring any unexpected changes in behavior...

What does the above mean for faculty in the near-term? Very little, actually! The basic problems we’ve been facing (declining enrollment, structural deficits, ineffective shared governance, etc.) aren’t really impacted by any of the above and I’ll repeat that 1) part-time faculty are going to be losing teaching assignments in very large numbers over the next couple of years (and, oddly, this isn’t being made an issue by any of the outspoken part-time faculty or PFT, so...?) and 2) hourly classified are still set to be laid off in large numbers with no real planning or discussion regarding what to do about it.

Yet, because it’s hard to not be so negative when we’re discussing hundreds of people in our community we’re set to cut loose without really seeming to care enough to pay attention, I’ll close by noting Peralta’s fascinating new partnership with Facebook!

For those unfamiliar, Facebook’s approached a small number of schools throughout the U.S. with a proposal to develop a small number of courses and certificate programs in what is basically...using Facebook for different, mostly advertising, functions. So, Peralta’s using its college’s accreditation to offer classes designed by non-Peralta faculty, but approved through our curriculum process so you know they’re legit..., so students can get a certificate in what is basically using Facebook that will then qualify them for ...well, it will be linked to a starting position at ...well, it’s a certificate! In Facebook!

In return for this Peralta will get some FTES for the classes and...well, it’s Facebook!