



PFT Staff <union@pft1603.org>

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 To: PFT Staff <union@pft1603.org>

Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 4:10 PM

From: Jennifer Shanoski <jshanoski@peralta.edu>
Subject: PFT e-communique vol. IX.v
Date: January 23, 2018 at 3:00:07 PM PST
To: Jennifer Shanoski <jshanoski@peralta.edu>

The Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees holds its first meeting of 2018 tonight at seven in the boardroom at 333 E. Eighth St.

Another interim appointment is on tonight's agenda, as trustees consider replacing Melvinia King with a new Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Continuing Education at the District Office. King has been at that desk since her "interim" appointment in July 2016.

PFT has pointed out again and again that, while technically allowable under Ed. Code, the ongoing use of such appointments runs afoul of the district's own administrative procedures, and, worse, serves as an end-run around participatory governance. AP 7123 states that interim appointments can "serve for the time necessary to allow for full and open recruitment for the position, provided that the acting or interim appointment or series of acting or interim appointments not exceed one year."

Also on the agenda is the board's closed-session evaluation of the chancellor. The description of the item features this mysterious line: "The Board is provided respective salaries in closed session for information purposes only, if any." Trustees have already awarded contract extensions that will keep Laguerre in place until 2020—is a raise being considered even as trustees sort out budgetary issues? In that vein, tonight's meeting offers a look at an audit report that raises more questions than it answers: What is the balance of the reserves? And does the balance include student receivables? The report does say at least one thing clearly, something it said last year, too: "The oversight and monitoring controls over the asset and liability accounts and the closing process appear not to have been adhered to." Sharon Cornu, the consultant formerly engaged by the district to handle the A's deal, is back on tonight's agenda, this time to the tune of \$50K for "additional support in development and strengthening of strategic partnerships and for support with external activities." And there's another \$125K for outside investigators to handle "personnel matters" and arbitration. PFT currently has three cases headed toward arbitration, on top of a couple of PERB cases. A more engaged administration would save money—and create some needed goodwill—by working to resolve issues internally; maddeningly, the district has spent recent months cancelling meetings with PFT, failing to respond to grievances, and capriciously changing its mind months after settlements have been hammered out. Finally, there's a revised facilities master plan to take up, an item potentially worth a cool billion. Faculty are justifiably worried that the district will push for expensive new projects before it takes care of its books, honors its commitment to participatory governance, or stops spending the lion's share of Peralta resources at 333 E. Eighth St.

In other news:

*Longtime

CoA Biology teacher John Steiner passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 28 after a long bout with brain

cancer. A former US Marine who started teaching at CoA in 1993, John joined the full-time faculty in 2005. PFT salutes John for his service, and offers condolences to his two daughters and Patti Tsai-Steiner, his wife and dedicated CoA instructor. Donations may be made in John's memory to the Cancer Support Community, [3276 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597](#).

*PFT's membership drive hops to the island next week, as orange-and-blue troops fan out across the CoA campus. Look for clipboard-toting union folks 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. everyday from Jan. 29 through Feb. 1.

*Welcome back happy hours for faculty will be held from 4-6 p.m.

for Laney on Thurs., Jan. 25 at

[Federation](#)

[Brewery](#),

for Merritt College on

Mon., Jan. 29 at

[Monaghan's](#),

for COA on Mon., Feb. 5 at [Rockwall](#)

[Winery](#), and for BCC on Thurs., Feb. 8 at

[Eureka](#).

In Solidarity,

Jennifer Shanoski, Ph.D.

President, Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT 1603

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