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Thirty newly tenured faculty members* will be honored this evening at five at [555 E. Eighth St.](#) The reception—light refreshments courtesy of the Office of Academic Affairs, fetching PFT t-shirts courtesy of Local 1603—precedes the regular meeting of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, set for seven in the district boardroom.

The Peralta Federation of Teachers has fought long and hard to expand the ranks of the permanent faculty. Even as it celebrates the accomplishments of tonight's honorees—and the colleagues, friends, and families who have supported them—the union will rededicate itself to pushing the district to prioritize more full-time faculty hiring in the years ahead and increased fairness for the part-time faculty who work beside them.

And the urgency to change district priorities just gets more acute. Take, e.g., tonight's curious interim hire: a temp VC of Finance and Administration. With Romaneir Johnson's appointment to the permanent VCFA position in January, keeping on an interim seems like a setup for more confusion over what Chancellor Jowel C. Laguerre termed in his Feb. 28 C-Direct "the current misrepresentation of the District's action" in budget matters. PFT decries the district's insistence on allowing the Chancellor's decisions to trump [state law](#) and [internal procedures](#).

Then there's the issue of the chancellor's evaluation. The closed-session item raises questions, not least because the evaluation process excluded the leadership of both PFT and DAS. And with the faculty's formal representatives left out, the evaluation can only present a partial view. So to help paint a more complete portrait, PFT has put together [its own survey](#) about the district administration. Faculty should complete the brief questionnaire so that the union can offer a fuller picture of the district.

Also of concern is consideration of the final draft of the *PCCD Board of Trustees Handbook*. The manual includes a number of incitements to behavior unbecoming of public servants, moves to stifle dissent and limit debate:

Trustees and the Chancellor should express mutual support in public. Concerns about performance should be shared privately—they are confidential personnel matters. (33)

Boards do not always make unanimous decisions, but once a decision is debated and made, it is the voice of the Board and all trustees should abide by it. Usually those who "lost" the vote support the Board's decision. However, occasionally a trustee will publicly speak out against a Board decision after it is made. . . . a trustee who works against the Board harms the institution and his or her own reputation. (34-35)

The handbook even includes instructions about how to handle no-confidence votes. Notably, the "possible responses" listed don't include humbly accepting the democratic verdict of the "faculty and/or staff members" and resigning. Trustees are urged to sharpen their blue pencils.

A final bit of sad irony: the board will hear a presentation from college presidents on the 2017 Student Success Scorecard. The state-mandated report details completion rates, persistence figures, and basic skills metrics—progress on all of which is now threatened by district class-cutting and FTES-reduction efforts.

In other news:

—PFT has endorsed the [March 14 National School Walkout](#) against gun violence. On W 3/14 at 10 a.m. local time, students across the country plan to walk out of classes for 17 minutes in honor of the victims of the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Florida, and to urge Congress to take meaningful action to curb gun violence.

—PFT's Diversity Chair, Kimberly King, is organizing a [Women's History Month event](#) at Laney College on Wednesday, March 28 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Centered on the article "Dancing Backwards in High Heels," the PFT diversity committee will co-host a panel aimed at discussion and fellowship.

—Join PFT for its first *Mayday for May Day* Conference, set for Fri., April 28 at Berkeley City College. Speakers will include elected public officials, union leaders, and community organizers, coming together to discuss labor's response to *Janus*, the antiunion case the Supreme Court will decide in June.

In solidarity,

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*The crop of the freshly tenured is listed by college, below:

Berkeley City College: Windy Franklin, Emie Mitsuno Hernandez, Aaron Mobley, Shawn McDougal, Wayne Alejandro Wolbert, Ari Krupnick

College of Alameda: Peter Pappas, Jamar Mears, Peter Ha, Carolyn Johnson, Robert Pettyjohn, Rachel Goodwin, Edwin Towle

Laney College: Peter Brown, Douglas Bruce, Rina A Santos, XiaLin Chi, Laura Contreras, Andrea Lee, Antonio Watkins, Roger Porter, Blake Johnson, Autumn Sullivan, Jeffrey Haagenson, Scott Godfrey

Merritt College: Daniel Lawson, Rosa Perez, Charity Clay, Thomas Renbarger, Elaine Wallace