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PCCD Board Watch 1.22.19 ed.

1 message

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If the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees made a New Year's resolution to bring more pep to its oversight duties in 2019, it's kept its commitment so far. Trustees took nearly four hours at their Jan. 22 meeting to work through the agenda. And the torrent of questions and concerns from the dais shows no sign of drying up anytime soon.

Among items drawing trustee scrutiny: Chancellor Jowel C. Laguerre's presentation on the \$800 million facilities bond approved by Alameda County voters in November. Laguerre argued for hiring a new director and staff to manage the money, a proposal never vetted with district shared governance.

Left unclear, too, was how Laguerre's proposal to hire "external experts" would fit into the district organizational chart, and where the money to pay them would come from. Trustees Nicky Gonzalez Yuen, Karen Weinstein, Julina Bonilla and Cindi Reiss all demanded more details.

A presentation on the updated district budget went over better with the board. If history is any guide, though, the revised budget overstates full-time faculty costs and understates part-time costs—a concern PFT has brought up repeatedly with the district finance office.

An audit report raised questions about Peralta's overall fiscal health in relation to the district's recent trouble with the Accrediting Commission for Junior and Community Colleges. Trustee Julina Bonilla asked the chancellor to develop an action plan, Trustee Meredith Brown called for specifics on the district's long-term liabilities.

A delayed ONEPeralta update, courtesy of interim IT chief Minh Lam, described a "reset" of the whole undertaking. The presentation included a mention of the project's "governance structure," an advisory body that appears to stand outside official shared-governance channels—a troubling revelation. Trustee Reiss remarked on the expense of a do-over and asked about its connection to the district's established tech plan. Lam estimated the cost at \$800K and offered no guarantees, the same disclaimer made by the district's last IT director.

Trustee Bonilla questioned the chancellor's resolution on restructuring the citizens' oversight committees. Laguerre's proposal failed to take into account new policies and procedures developed through the shared-governance process and didn't have a clear implementation plan connected to it. Board Attorney Natasha Spivey who described the resolution as a legal necessity.

The Laney College football team was recognized for its 40-35 victory over Ventura College in the 2018 California Community College Athletic Association championship. The memory of Norma Tucker, Merritt College's first woman president, was honored.

Elsewhere:

*PFT invites all faculty to head for the [Lake Chalet](#), Wed., Jan. 30, 4-6 p.m., for a welcome-back happy hour. The union is buying members their first round!

*Ballots for the [100th Annual CFT Convention](#) are due at the PFT offices (500 E. Eighth St., Ste. B, Oakland) by Fri., Feb. 1 at 2 p.m.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Shanoski, President

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