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Jennifer Shanoski <jshanoski@peralta.edu>

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To: Jennifer Shanoski <jshanoski@peralta.edu>

Cc: Trustees <Trustees@peralta.edu>, District-AS <District-AS@peralta.edu>, Merritt-FAS <Merritt-FAS@peralta.edu>, Laney-FAS <Laney-FAS@peralta.edu>, COA-FAS <COA-FAS@peralta.edu>, BCC-FAS <BCC-FAS@peralta.edu>, Laura Watson <union@pft1603.org>, Anna Roy <anna@pft1603.org>

The Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees convenes as usual tonight at seven in the boardroom at 333 E. Eighth St. Those wishing to keep their social distance might consider streaming the session on YouTube, tuning in to KGPC-FM 96.9, or clicking over to PCTV (Cable Channel 27 in Alameda and Berkeley, 28 in Oakland).

Pandemic aside, tonight's a festive occasion for faculty, thirty of whom will formally receive tenure at the meeting: three from BCC, nine from CoA, ten from Laney, and eight from Merritt. A boardroom reception honoring the bumper crop of the newly tenured precedes the regular meeting at 5 p.m.

Worthy of a flute or two of champagne, too: the board will grant sabbaticals to three faculty members, Barbara DesRochers (BCC, Biology), Trish Nelson (CoA, English), and Irina Rivkin (Laney, Counseling).

The union has fought long and hard to protect academic freedom and sabbaticals for faculty. It's gratified to see its work help Peralta instructors, counselors, librarians, and healthcare professionals secure lifelong job security and opportunities for unimpeded intellectual inquiry and critical research.

The board will also consider an intriguing \$2.3M adjustment to Peralta's Q 311 report that will lift district reserves to 12.9%, and take up hiring Carla Walker as Peralta's new VC of Finance.

In other news:

*Celebrate Women's History Month Th., March 26, 12-2 p.m., in the fifth-floor student lounge at BCC, as PFT and the BCC Professional Development Committee present a talk by Liz Ortega, Women, Work, & Housing. Ortega, the first Latinx woman to head the Alameda Labor Council, will lead a panel discussion on the housing crisis and the role of labor in education. The event's free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. RSVP to save your spot.

*Nominations for the election of the open PFT Diversity Chair position are now being accepted. Completed nomination forms must arrive at the PFT offices by 4 p.m. on Mon., March 16.

*Look for the orange and blue as PFT fans out across the CoA campus this week to open its spring membership drive. The effort will continue at BCC, Laney, and Merritt later this term.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Shanoski, President
Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603
500 E. Eighth St., Ste. B
Oakland CA 94606

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jshanoski@peralta.edu
(510) 763-8820