

Part-Time Faculty Association of Allan Hancock College

PARITY & FAIRNESS THROUGH ADVOCACY



President's Letter September 2015

By Mark James Miller, PFA President

Welcome Back! Happy New Semester!



So a new school year and a new semester begin. We wanted to welcome all the new (and returning) part-time faculty, counselors, librarians and service faculty who are here either for the first time or coming back for another semester. Please remember we at the Part-Time Faculty Association are here to help you in any way we can. Being at a new job, in a new environment, can be daunting, and we are here to assist you if you need help or guidance as you become acclimated to your new environment at AHC. A few pointers:

Check your AHC email! When you were hired you received your Hancock email address. Be sure to check it. We have had more than one person not be rehired because they failed to respond to an email query from their dean/supervisor regarding their evaluation. Also, students communicate by email and there is an expectation that as a faculty member you will reply when a student emails you. (Be sure to check your voicemails as well).

Another reminder: Get your availability form turned in on time or you risk not being rehired or getting rehired for the classes or assignment you prefer. For spring semester, the deadline is September 12. For summer, it is January 2. For fall, it is February 1. The availability form is located on My Hancock, under the Faculty tab.

On this same page you will find the Part-Time Faculty Time Sheet. If you are a credit instructor and you hold office hours, or if you take part in any professional development activities, this is the form you need to turn in to your dean at the end of the semester, before the end of finals week, for payment on the last paycheck of the semester. Don't forget, this semester we are seeing an increase

in office hours, which we bargained in the spring: If you teach two classes, you are entitled to 90 minutes of office hour time a week; if you teach one class, you are entitled to 45 minutes per week.

New Faces On The PFA Executive Board; Special Election Scheduled

In my last letter I informed you that both Nahid Loghmani and Tricia George had departed from our executive board. In accordance with the bylaws of our Association, we have appointed David Yundt from computer science and Fatima Segura from counseling to take their places on a temporary basis. We will be holding a special election in October to formally fill these two vacancies. We will be sending out more information to all members as to how the special election process works as the date of the election gets closer.

Labor Day Celebration A Success!

On September 7, the Part-Time Faculty Association, working with the Tri Counties Central Labor Council, the California Federation of Teachers, The California Teachers Association, the United Domestic Workers, the Service Employees International Union, and the United Food and Commercial Workers, hosted the 2nd Annual Santa Maria Valley Union Labor Day Picnic and Celebration. Because



the event was such a great success in 2014 we decided to do it again this year, only bigger and better. While the final numbers are not yet at the time of this writing, I do know it was well attended and by an enthusiastic crowd. Among our special guests were Congresswoman Lois Capps, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider, and AHC President Kevin Walthers. Attendees

enjoyed free hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, and best of all free ice cream! When the ice cream truck arrived no announcement was made, but before long the line formed and never let up. Kids also lined up for face painting. A good time was had by all.

PFA Office Closing On Fridays

For a number of reasons the PFA office will be closed on Fridays for the time being. We will continue to check the emails and voicemails when we aren't here, and if you have an emergency you can call/text my cellphone, 805-235-7483. We will continue to be here Monday—Thursday 12—5.

Have Any News Or Announcements?

Do you have any special news, life events, or announcements you would like to share with your fellow part-time academic employees? If so, please send it to mark@pfaofahc.com, and we will consider including it in a future issue of the President's Letter.

Have a great semester and remember the Part-Time Faculty Association is here to serve you!