

**The Great Awakening.** In a recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, “Downturn Threatens the Faculty’s Role in Running Colleges,” author Robin Wilson writes, “Tough economic times are leading administrators to propose swift changes that short circuit-faculty governance” which results in “hastily conceived plans that reorganize academic programs, decrease professors’ roles in shaping the curriculum...all done with little advice from the faculty, in the name of saving money” (2/6/09). **We can not allow this to happen at PCC!**

**Alliance of Teachers, Staff, and Students:** **The PCCFA Leadership Board proposes a formal Alliance of Teachers, Staff, and Students** to monitor and lobby against the cuts in program planned by PCC administration. In addition, we are resolutely committed to oppose statewide measures that would jeopardize education, health, and welfare of all individuals in California. The Alliance has emerged in response to a terrific upsurge of energetic integrity as hundreds of angry students, staff, and faculty have opposed the District’s cuts. Thus PCCFA leaders, union members, and supporters have launched or attended a series of meetings to address the budget crisis. The response has been overwhelming.

**May 21--Monthly PCCFA meeting** (open to all): Eighty faculty, staff, and students revealed massive discontent over upcoming cuts in program and layoffs of teachers and campus workers. An inspiring contingent of students led the outcry as they sensed their access to much needed classes was in jeopardy.

**June 2—Follow up PCCFA Planning Meeting:** Over 60 faculty and approximately 20 students attended a follow-up meeting to hear PCCFA’s assessment of the District’s disingenuous plans to cut program yet not touch its huge reserves.

**June 3— Board of Trustees Meeting:** A raucous crowd of 250 teachers, staff, and students expressed their concerns to Board members who were stunned to witness the passion and substance of numerous student, staff, and faculty speakers.

**June 10—Budget Meeting called by Dr. Perfumo:** despite very short notice and the early hour (8 A.M.) well over 100 challenged Dr. Perfumo’s plans to cut back.

**June 11—Second Budget Meeting called by Dr. Perfumo:** Approximately 300 staff, teachers, and students quietly listened for a half an hour to a financial presentation, and then an uproar ensued as speaker after speaker challenged the cuts as particularly draconian in a time of severe economic crisis and unnecessary given the college’s huge reserves.

## **What Should We do Next?**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>—Board of Trustees Meeting (Rally 6P.M.-- Board Meeting 7 P.M. Harbeson Hall):** **PCCFA calls on all faculty, staff, and students to speak out against the cuts and layoffs. We urge all those who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut to come and speak out. All students who have lost classes should attend. Make this the most massive protest yet against the unnecessary cuts.** (See the facts below.)

### **Basic Facts. Why should you sign the petition?**

**Fact: The District Misspoke!** Several weeks ago, PCCFA charged that the college currently proposes cuts of 250 sections (about 12%) for the upcoming academic year--summer 2009 through spring 2010. The District responded by claiming "the decision to reduce sections [other than those in low enrollment] had not been made." While the District denied its planned cuts, Deans were told to create 5%, 10%, and 15% reduction scenarios. Cuts in Physical Sciences and English have already been communicated to faculty. Then in Budget sessions (June 10 and 11), the college proposed a 10% reduction, "for discussion purposes only." Currently, an 11% budget cut is being planned.

**Fact: The District Misspoke!** PCCFA quoted college representatives that 25 Math teachers would lose their jobs for fall, 2009. Then the District claimed that 'only' 8 math teachers would not have jobs for fall. In fact, according to Math Division Dean Carl Main, 20 sections will be cut over the academic year. Finally, he admitted that 18 Part Time Math teachers would lose their positions for fall semester alone!

**Fact: There has been a disturbing lack of transparency on the District's part!** PCCFA has charged that the District has a gag order. PCC's public relations officer, Juan Gutierrez conceded to the PCC *Courier* (6/4/09) regarding cuts and layoffs that, "it is college policy to inform him before anyone speaks to the media to make sure the facts are right and to see if anything relevant can be added." As their programs are cut and staff reduced, why can't academic Deans with significant curricular expertise and often with decades of service to the college not be allowed to speak for themselves?

**Fact: Just a few months ago, President Perfumo was given a three-year contract and a substantial increase in salary;** many managers were also given significant raises. Approximate cost \$300,000. *Shouldn't the president and managers give back these raises and take pay cuts to match the cuts they plan that will devastate the lives of students, teachers, and campus workers?* College representatives have insulted our intelligence by calling these raises, 'adjustments'.

**Fact: Campus workers have already lost their jobs!** The most vulnerable staff on campus are student-workers and temporary classified staff. Many work in instructional support labs and offices across the campus. In the English Writing Center alone, ten very experienced Instructional Aides will lose their jobs on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Fact: The college has been vague and muddled** on the precise amounts of monthly allocations from the state that have or have not been forthcoming. Rumors of cutting Winter Session (2010) entirely have been carefully devised to scare Part Time faculty particularly and encourage paranoia campus wide. Further, the college says it is 'looking into' cutting overload for Full Time Faculty.

**Fact: Academic freedom is under assault.** PCC Trustee Geoff Baum charged that PCC teachers may be coercing students into signing petitions against cuts. Baum's pathetic attempt to stifle dissent reveals once again that desperate and unimaginative misleaders resort to scare tactics. Baum, who is up for election this fall, has been a long time supporter of the current costly wars and has aspirations for statewide office; he consistently shows he is out of touch with the needs of students, staff, and faculty. However, academic freedom is also under attack in a more subtle form as class sizes swell and teachers are forced to alter their pedagogies attempting to maintain student success while shouldering exhausting loads.

**Fact:** PCC has by its own admission more than double the budget reserve required by state statute. Five percent (for PCC, approximately \$7 million) is required, but PCC keeps approximately \$9.6 million *above and beyond state mandates*. In the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Budget meeting, this was called the ‘piggybank’ that was not to be touched. PCC admits it would rather hoard that money and make drastic cuts. This is the ‘It is necessary to destroy the college in order to save it position’ put forward by Trustee John Martin. Martin stated that in order for his young daughters to attend PCC years from now, ‘we’ would need to cut back now.

**Fact:** PCC by its own admission has \$20,728,977 million (!) in its Self Insurance Fund that amounts to little more than a slush fund to transfer money in and out at the Board’s discretion. It refuses to utilize those funds to offset Sacramento’s cuts.

**Fact:** PCC’s President has just received Board approval to hire an administrator to assist in running the daily affairs of the college. This hire flies in the face of a recent memo from California Community College Chancellor Jack Scott who advised colleges to freeze administration costs for the indefinite future.

**Fact:** PCC currently has budgeted over \$225,235 for consultants’ fees for Vision 20/20, a wasteful expense when the college is cutting classes now! Responsible fiscal policy would not waste precious resources on excessive fees.

**Fact:** Consultants’ fees for the proposed PUSD high school on campus continue to expose this PCC misadventure as ill advised and costly at a time of fiscal crisis.

**Fact:** PCC has postponed (apparently until September) its plan to hire consultants to advise on a massive overhaul of its Computing Services (approximate cost \$250,000) despite having competent in-house personnel who could prepare the assessment.

**Fact: Only a determined effort by all faculty, staff, students, and concerned members of the community will prevent these draconian cuts from being implemented! Join the PCC Alliance to oppose cuts and save jobs. For more information, call the PCCFA Office: 626-585-7261.**

**National Bailout:** Joseph Stiglitz, the 2001 winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, criticized the Obama bailout package: “What the Obama administration is doing is ersatz capitalism, the privatizing of gains and socializing of losses. It is a ‘partnership’ in which one partner robs the other—with the private sector in control...it’s the Rube Goldberg device that Wall Street loves—clever, complex and nontransparent, allowing huge transfers of wealth to the financial markets” (New York Times 4/1/09).

As of late March 2009, \$9 trillion lost in stocks but even more \$5.5 trillion on home values. (LAT 3/25/09)

**Favorite hypocrite of the month:** Lawrence Summers, former President of Harvard but pushed out after declaring women were not up to high level science and math. Even Cornell West moved to Princeton from Harvard in protest of Summers’ antics. Thus it is odd that President Obama should appoint Summers as Director of the National Economic Council. Then again Summers does have economic credentials but not quite the integrity and transparency most desirable. Both the *New York Times* (4/11/09) and *BusinessWeek* (4/27/09) wondered that given Summers received \$5.2 million for minimal duties at hedge fund, D.E. Shaw and \$2.7 million in speaking fees from Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, might he be biased in his overseeing of the economic recovery.

Housing 30% of Calif homeowners are negative equity (LAT 3/8/09)

PCC Trustees Disingenuous...The Bd gave President Perfumo a raise and a three-year contract *and now it has sent 10% of PCC faculty members a Performance Evaluation Form for Dr. Perfumo. Just as the PCCFA was not included in the Accreditation Team formal visit now the faculty are insulted by an obviously superfluous evaluation just a few weeks after the Bd has given its seal of approval to Dr. Perfumo. So much for shared governance.* We say boycott the charade of this evaluation. Clearly the Bd does not genuinely care about faculty input.