

FARSCCD FACTS

RSCCD Faculty Union Newsletter

May 2017

BUDGET NEWS

On April 17, the District Council met to consider a plan to make cuts to the budget to deal with project budget overruns resulting from increases to STRS/PERS District contribution increases as well as declining enrollment. In an email to the District on April 25, the Chancellor outlined his plans for “Phase I”. In that email, he made a reference to a possible “Phase II”.

Towards the end of a marathon board meeting on May 15, the Chancellor again made comments regarding an almost certain “Phase II”. In these brief remarks (that are available on the “H” drive), the Chancellor mentioned that Phase II would be “...a deeper dive into the structure of our organization”. The Chancellor mentioned looking at program closure, personnel cuts, and how to do things differently. The Chancellor echoed an earlier comment from a board member about “right-sizing” the District.

During the Great Recession, there was talk about a “new normal”. The Chancellor stated that we haven’t seen the new normal, but we will. The Chancellor also stated that he hopes that there will not be a need for “Phase III”.

The Chancellor informed the board that “Phase II” will be brought to the board next fall or sometime during the next academic year and that work on “Phase II” will start in the summer. While concerns have been expressed that “Phase I” was not widely disseminated prior to being rolled out, it is our hope that the Chancellor utilizes the Participatory Governance Process (AB 1725) and engages all the faculty groups in crafting “Phase II” at the outset.

Considering, as the Chancellor stated, that this plan will be a “... deeper dive into the structure of our organization”, it is imperative that this plan be as transparent and inclusive in its development as possible.

CHANCELLOR...WHERE IS THE VISION?

Kristen Guzmán

District faculty confused by Chancellor Rodriguez's blasé approach to the present and future.

Last Tuesday, May 24, at Santa Ana College's Academic Senate meeting, dozens of faculty gathered in the I-Building to find out what updates and thoughts RSCCD Chancellor Raul Rodriguez had to share.

The mood of the audience shifted from mildly dispirited reactions, to biting cynicism, to frustration and finally disgust as the Chancellor seemed to lack any vision for where the District is going. More troubling, the Chancellor contends that looking abroad to the Middle East, and eventually China, is where he will find answers to the District's economic woes.

Chancellor Rodriguez stated that the work at the Colleges of Excellence (COE) has started in Saudi Arabia and stated, **"we"** hired eight *people*.

The faculty corrected him, "You mean eight *men* were hired?" This was followed with the question, "When you say 'we' hired them, who hires them?" The Chancellor conceded only men can be hired and the Foundation equity partner, Al Khaleej, hired them. He went on to say the number of employees will increase to 16 men in the fall of 2017, but made no mention that the other partner, COE was under investigation for corruption by the Saudi government.

The Chancellor went on to say the biggest challenge working in Saudi Arabia was internet connectivity. Really? That's the biggest challenge you face? You're worried about internet connectivity when dozens of classified and part-time faculty may lose their jobs?

The often-mentioned Christopher Mackie was one of the individuals the Chancellor said was working on the Saudi project. Mackie, of course has a long standing association with the Chancellor going back to the Chancellor's days at San Joaquin Delta College. There was no mention that Mackie has already received over \$300,000 working on the project.

A frustrated and visibly irritated faculty member asked, "How does this [Saudi partnership] benefit our students?"

The Chancellor responded, "Money."

This same faculty member asked, "Would you ever work there [in Saudi Arabia]?"

The Chancellor answered, "I might; if the money's right."

He expanded his answer saying that he actually felt very safe walking around by himself at night. And that the area, in fact, reminded him of Mexico. To which faculty later responded, incredulously, "...and if he had been a woman?"

The audience just seemed to be in disbelief that the Chancellor could be so tone deaf and oblivious to how problematic his attitude and actions were. When asked how much money the district will actually receive from this deal, the Chancellor answered that the District's first payment would come August 2017, but he had no idea how much the payment would be. When pressed for an approximate amount such as, "Under \$100,000? Above \$100,000?" he responded, "I don't know."

Two years ago, the Chancellor was boasting to anyone who would listen the partnership would bring in over \$100 million dollars! The Chancellor also shared that the District needed to "get its foot in the door" if it were to someday enter into economic agreements with the "big hitters" like China when it comes to educational consulting. Even though the Chancellor admitted that he spends less time on the Saudi project than does **Vice-Chancellor Enrique Perez**, it seems like this is his great idea, for the moment, of how to bring in revenues to our District. Or perhaps to enhance his resume and that of Vice-Chancellor Perez as educational consultants at the expense of our students, faculty and staff.

Finally, when the faculty pressed him about why our District's Foundation would even want to go into ANY kind of financial partnership with Saudi Arabia, which has a heinous human rights record, he answered, "That's the one we came up with. I'll take any idea..."

Label this under: FAIL.



FACULTY PARTY



Celebrate with us!

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**SANTA ANA
COLLEGE
GRADUATION
FACULTY PARTY**

JUNE 8, 2017

8:30 PM

HOSTED BY FARSCCD @

**THE HOME OF
PROFESSOR
JIM ISBELL**

**2510 N. SPURGEON ST.
SANTA ANA**

**RSVP TO
FARSCCD@GMAIL.COM**

**SANTIAGO
CANYON
COLLEGE
GRADUATION
FACULTY PARTY**

JUNE 9, 2017

4:00 PM

**HOSTED BY
FARSCCD @
WISE GUYS PIZZA**

**7606 E. CHAPMAN
AVE. ORANGE**

**RSVP TO
FARSCCD@GMAIL.COM**



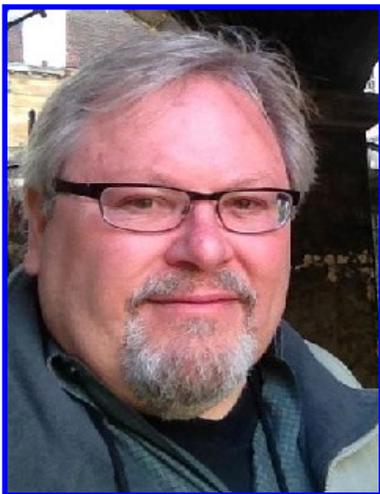
Retiree Health Benefits Workshop

Last Wednesday, May 24, FARSCCD hosted a workshop at SCC conducted by the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP). HICAP is a member of the Council of Aging – Southern California. The informational program covered how Medicare works with District retiree health benefits. Over forty faculty and spouses (left) that are approaching retirement or have already retired were in attendance. If you are interested in a workshop at SAC for the fall, please contact FARSCCD@gmail.com.

Following the presentation by HICAP, Evan Hawkins from the Faculty Association for California Community Colleges (FACCC) gave an update on the budget.

The FARSCCD Executive Board will be negotiating the 2017-18 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Please send your suggestions to FARSCCD@GMAIL.COM

FARSCCD WELCOMES SANTA ANA COLLEGE ENGLISH PROFESSOR JIM ISBELL (L) AND MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR KELVIN LEEDS (R) TO THE FARSCCD EXECUTIVE BOARD.



YOUR RIGHT TO UNION REPRESENTATION

“If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request that my steward or union officer be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions.”

1975 US Supreme Court Case.
The Weingarten
Decision

