

Petaluma Faculty Forum
October 27, 2020
3:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Link: <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/95128195989>

Faculty: Elizabeth Simas, Hannah Winkler, Lynn Erikson Rhode, Jessica Harris, John Stover, Loretta Esparza, Steven Kessler, Vincent Hamilton, Matthew Martin, Tony Ruiz, Michael Traina, Catherine Williams, Michael McKeever, Johnny Sarraf

Administration: Matt Pearson, Matthew Long, Regina Guerra, Andrew Gratto Bachman, Heidi Miranda, Janet Stribling

Special Guest: Dr. Frank Chong

AGENDA

OPEN FORUM: MINUTES:

Bachman – Please refer students who need help. Keep an eye out for some workshops in the next couple of weeks—particularly focusing on un-plugging.

Minutes of September 2020: Approved

REPORTS:

1. Academic Senate

The major focus of AS at this moment is Guided Pathways. Recommendations have been submitted. It is a strategic plan to make visible the support structures for our students. This is an important move for our students—on average it takes our students six years to complete. This is a move to better support and retain our students.

Officer elections coming. Constitutional amendment in the works. Still responding to the BSU demands.

Thursday from 5-6 is a GP Town Hall

2. All Faculty Association

Negotiations are on-going—Spring side letter is still in the works. Any feedback regarding the side letter can be run by a council member. There will be a listening session coming up for these issues as well. Reminder for the transition compensation is 10/31—check the note in the email.

Monthly office hour is next Tuesday 11/3 3-4 pm. Information will come via email.

3. Chair Report

College LGBTQ advisory committee is still looking for volunteers from Petaluma. They meet the second Tuesday of the month.

The PFF Retreat had about 17 people come—talked a lot about our “glue” and how we are meeting our student needs. While it felt hard to have another zoom meeting, consensus was the time together was needed and felt great.

Julie Thompson has offered to have more reports to Senate—once a month up from the once a semester reports from the past. As long as we are virtual, this will continue.

Chair election coming up. Two people currently interested in running.

4. Management Team Update

Pearson – every classroom on the campus (except a few) have been completely updated with new A/V equipment and digital screens. Faculty should expect to use HDMI connectors moving forward.

There are still a lot of USB Webcams and Doc Cameras available for checkout. Same with speakers and microphones.

Guerra – If you’re holding synchronous classes, it might be helpful to check <https://admissions.santarosa.edu/ferpa-guidelines-distance-education-courses> with updates regarding FERPA and student privacy.

If you hold sync class visits and you have the time, Student Health Services are giving great presentations and they only pop in for a bit. Really useful for students.

Still working on the issue of captioning/transcribing. Feels like a lot of extra workload for people to take on. Working on a new plan, to recognize this work and compensate for that work/software faculty are using.

Pearson- The college has accounts for some captioning. Contact him with questions etc.

ML – Recognizing LumaFest is not happening this semester. There are some Dia de los Muertos events still going on in Petaluma.

There is a peer feedback process, bringing in people from other colleges to review the college and offering feedback regarding Shared governance.

NYTs article—JCs are down about 20% in enrollment. A lot of questions/concern regarding what the future of enrollment will be.

Construction is going very well.

Chong—Our declining numbers are largely due to programs like KAD/Automotive etc. Also there is a national trend of Black/Latinx males are largely being turned away from colleges.

5. President's Update

There is mixed reception from students regarding online education—some students are really benefitting from it, some are struggling.

Working on Measure H – really trying to push and accelerate building right now while the campuses are closed. Labor costs have also gone down as a result of Covid, but building materials prices are going up.

We received an HSI, three million dollar, grant over five years. This is a district wide grant.

We also received a million dollar grant from Kaiser to student residential housing.

Measure O would bring 800,000 a year to support mental health services for students.

Prop 15 would be a big win for public education.

ACTION:

DISCUSSION:

1. Discussion with Dr. Frank Chong

Framing the conversation via the questions previously submitted to Dr. Chong

Dr. Frank Chong – we're doing a complete district wide upgrade on locks/cameras on the campus. Already setting them up now—taking advantage of the time with people off campus.

Not sure when we will be back on campus—it will be based on science. Our county needs to be off the rating of “purple” before this could be an option.

Long—every exterior door will have an electronic locks. Most angles around the campus will be covered with cameras. Slated to be done at the end of spring.

Simas – With the upcoming budget cuts, how do you predict they will impact Petaluma specifically.

Dr. Frank Chong – You’re lucky to have ML. If we’re going to start centralizing the district, we need to be thinking about the impact over all. We will be working together to try and minimize the impact of the reduction. Thinking about the cuts in these four categories, not site specific: AF, SS, Grounds, HR

Simas – How can the district help support with DE? With a 600% increase.

Dr. Frank Chong – Funds from CARES act used to compensate training. We’re trying to hold the line in hiring new people, but the DE staff have been “heroic” –if they can’t keep up, they will let him know. Things seem to be “leveling out” now. Hopefully things will smooth out—if not, he needs to know.

Issue: transcribing videos for caption if requested via DE has a long turn around time. So some people are going to the Chancellor’s office, but we are trying to keep stuff in house.

Dr. Frank Chong: He will get back to us.

Traina: Might be helpful to hear your POV regarding our funding in re: to state/federal bailout money. Any clarity on the budget would be helpful.

Dr. Frank Chong: First bailout was CARES to provide money out to students to help students afford school. And helped fund the transition work. Some money is left over, being spent on PPE, thinking about things like masks/plexiglass. The new bailout before the election is zero. There seems to be no sign of another bailout for schools coming. Mixed economy in California—lot of capital gains tax, but sales tax is down. Long term—we aren’t effected because of the fire relief funds (2022), but still advocating for an extension of the relief funds. Still planning on how big of a college we want to be as a result of the fires.

Expects there to be cuts next year to the budget.

Suggestion: There is a need for more support in DE.

Hamilton – Fourth fall semester in a row we’ve lost at least a week of classes due to fires. Are there any ideas floating around regarding addressing this in the long run?

Dr. Frank Chong – Discussions happening with AFA about the schedule as a way to address it. Any adjustments to the calendar is done with AFA. If there is a solution to adjust the calendar, he is open. But with global warming, this is a very difficult issue to predict. It’s very destabilizing and traumatic. Might be time to discuss the calendar. Management is very open minded to this—a shorter calendar/compressed calendar.

Stover-- clarifying that our calendar is an extended calendar. We’re advocating for a standard calendar.

There is a lot of vocal support for the standard calendar.

2. Responding to Student Needs

A robust conversation was held discussing how we're responding to student needs.

3. Election of a New PFF Chair

PFF Chair elections will be held at our next meeting.