Governor’s Online Community College Proposal Labeled as ‘Wrongheaded’

By Oren Peli

Governor Jerry Brown’s proposal for a 115th online community college is not all that it’s cracked up to be.

On its surface, the idea for an online community college may seem like a slam-dunk. He hopes to allocate $100 million of this year’s state budget for start-up funds and $20 million more in ongoing annual costs to open an independent online community college District, set to start in the fall of 2019.

Brown and prominent supporters like Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley say they want to provide an affordable option for busy adults hoping to gain valuable job skills and who are opting for private and out-of-state schools for online education. Oakley recently penned a Los Angeles Times op-ed

Governor Jerry Brown’s proposal for a 115th online community college is not all that it’s cracked up to be.

On its surface, the idea for an online community college may seem like a slam-dunk. He hopes to allocate $100 million of this year’s state budget for start-up funds and $20 million more in ongoing annual costs to open an independent online community college District, set to start in the fall of 2019.

Brown and prominent supporters like Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley say they want to provide an affordable option for busy adults hoping to gain valuable job skills and who are opting for private and out-of-state schools for online education. Oakley recently penned a Los Angeles Times op-ed

Continued on page 3

May Day 2018

Guild members and participants in the AFT 1521 Intern program joined thousands of others in the Labor Movement at a May Day march and rally in Downtown Los Angeles (Top). One of the featured speakers was Rusty Hicks, President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and a Guild member (Right).

2018 Faculty Guild Election Winners Announced

President Waddell Wins Re-Election, Run-Off Being Held for Three Positions

In races that involved 84 candidates from all nine campuses and the Emeritus Chapter, Guild members elected their districtwide officers, chapter leaders, and campus representatives on the Executive Board. Elected leaders will take office on June 1st.

Certified election results are posted on the Guild website at www.aft1521.org.

AFT 1521 will have both returning and new officers for the next two-year term.

Joanne Waddell was re-elected President, as was Bill Elarton as Executive Vice President. A run-off election is currently in progress between candidates for the office of Recording Secretary, Chapter President at Mission, and an Executive Board delegate slot at East.

This will be Joanne Waddell’s 5th term leading the Guild. “I’m honored and proud that the membership has again entrusted me with this leadership position in the Guild,” Waddell said. “We have many challenges ahead, including Janus v. AFSCME, AB 705, and a new California budget allocation model. I’m confident that this group of officers and Executive Board delegates are prepared to meet those challenges head on.”

Bill Elarton will be serving his 4th term as Executive Vice President. “Leadership is not about winning an election, and trust is not something that you, our members, have given me just because I won,” he said. “It’s something that I will always strive to earn from you.”

The position of Treasurer will be filled by current CalSTRS Liaison Sharon Hendricks. “Thanks to AFT 1521 members for electing me Treasurer of the Guild,” she said. “I look forward to providing clear and transparent accounting of how dues are spent to serve and educate our full-time and part-time faculty!”

The current Recording Secretary, Deborah Kaye, who served in her position since 2004, recently retired.

“It’s been a privilege to serve the Guild, both as Secretary and as a member of seven Guild negotiating teams,” she said. “I’ve seen the collective bargaining agreement become a stronger document to protect faculty rights during each round of negotiations. As former co-chair of the Adjunct Faculty Issues Committee, I’m particularly proud of our work in creating the first Adjunct Survival Guide.”

The results of the three races listed below have neces-
President’s Message

NEW BEGINNINGS

The first stage of a hard-fought Guild election has now been completed. I want to thank the Guild Election Committee as well as our Guild staff, who carried out the election procedures. I especially want to thank those of you who attended the campus forums and carefully considered the candidate statements and materials -- and to the 1,684 Guild members who cast ballots. We welcome the two new districtwide officers, the five new chapter presidents, and the many new Executive Board delegates as they take office on June 1st. Together we will keep the Guild strong to serve our members.

We face several challenges – at the national, state, district, and campus levels.

- At the national level, we face the effect on the Guild and on all public sector unions of the Supreme Court decision in the Janus case. In spite of the efforts of the ‘right-to-work movement’ to “defund and defang” public sector unions, so far, the effect has been to increase union density. Guild membership has increased about 20% in the past four years. This month, chapter presidents will be asking you to sign recommit cards.

- At the state level, the 2018-19 state budget presents us with two challenges: first, the exact impact of the 115th community college – a fully online college – is a huge unknown, especially for those who have invested heavily in distance education at their institutions. The Guild has joined with allies to lobby legislators and testify at legislative hearings in strong opposition to the online college.

- In addition, our current funding formula, driven by enrollment, is about to change to include a performance-based funding component. The state will factor in our percentage of underprepared students and the number of degrees and certificates awarded. Although we’re held harmless for 2018-19 and 2019-20, we can’t afford to be complacent. The emphasis on completion is actually ‘market-driven reform,’ community college-style. In the end, it’s another way to reduce our funding and – once again – ration higher education.

- AB 705 pushes our underprepared students to become completers within three years. Will it work? It hasn’t in the last 20 years – will this time be different?

- At the District level, the Guild will continue to monitor dual enrollment and adult ed for progress in enrollment increases. We’ll continue to press our trustees and college administration (who each seem to be waiting for the other to take action) to fund measures that will increase enrollment. We’ll continue to press them to take the necessary steps to ensure the health of our colleges and the success of our students.

- Finally, we will be watching carefully as our LACCD trustees prepare to fill one, and possibly two seats on the Board. The Board took a positive step on May 9th by voting to appoint a replacement for Assemblymember-elect Kamlager-Dove rather than wastefully spend millions of dollars on an election.

I’m energized by these challenges and am inspired by the engagement of so many of our members. With the work ahead, we will need everyone to be “all in.” We’re counting on you!

In Unity,
Joanne Waddell

You are invited to the Faculty Guild’s ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- Join your colleagues for continental breakfast and lunch prepared by Trade Tech Culinary Arts students.

- Find out the latest news from the Guild

- Hear from special guest speakers

- Recognize retirees and newly-tenured faculty

- Win prizes at the raffle

Friday, June 1st
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Trade Tech College / Magnolia Hall Atrium

RSVP by May 18th to Robert Salazar at rsalazar@aft1521.org or (323) 851-1521 EXT 205
Tell Robert if you are retiring this spring.

Motions Passed at the March Executive Board Meeting

Contributed $1500 to Miguel Santiago (Assembly District 53)
Contribute $1500 to Al Muratsuchi (Assembly District 66)
Authorized our auditor to conduct a Special Purpose Audit to examine expenditures and reimbursements for all Guild leadership, to be undertaken when he conducts our usual annual audit after a new Treasurer takes office

Approve the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Resolution, as amended to include calling for a national ban on assault weapons and installing inside door locking capability
From the Guild Treasurer

Guild finances are strong. The Executive Board approved two audits in September 2017, one by a professional accounting firm and another from AFT national finance, praising the Guild’s progress in meeting previous audit recommendations. The Treasurer has invited the Executive Board and other members to monthly “Open Books Days” since November 2017. The Guild’s audits, budgets, and annual and monthly Treasurer reports reflecting transparency may not have been distributed to the chapters and members.

In response to previous annual audit reports, the Guild has been training staff and instituting more efficient bookkeeping practices. The Guild’s finance team of Treasurer, President, Accountant, and OPEIU clerical staff have worked hard to address the recommendations and have accomplished the following:

- Cut our telephone and internet bill from $65,000/year to less than $15K, saving over $50K per year
- Started earning funds by securely generating modest interest with no-risk investments
- Fixed audit recommendations and created better recordkeeping
- Built a transparent and consistent reimbursement policy
- Created efficient and streamlined processes for Guild clerical staff
- Brought union finances into the 21st century—literally—by migrating financial software from 1999 to 2017 QuickBooks

During the recent union election, campaign tactics mirrored recent national tactics. The campaign trail has been the space for some to toss politically motivated and inappropriate charges against Guild financial operations and my performance as treasurer. However, Guild members should rest assured that I, as Treasurer, and the rest of the Guild’s finance team have taken our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously and have made great strides to improve our financial health to continue to provide excellent service to our members.

You are invited to Open Books Day, May 29th, 2018, 1-3 PM at the Guild office. Lunch will be served if you RSVP. Questions? Contact gchee99@yahoo.com

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve you the past two years.
Grace Chee,
Guild Treasurer 2016-18

Online Community College

(Continued from page 1)

stating his support for the proposal.

But Guild President Joanne Waddell has emphasized that AFT 1521, CFT, the National AFT, and many around the state are firmly at odds with Brown's proposal.

"We are strong supporters of online education when it's done correctly," Waddell said. "By that, I mean that faculty should be involved in developing the curriculum, faculty should have collective bargaining power and should have possibility of a tenure track, none of which are possible in the Governor's proposal. The classes and curriculum aren't put together by faculty but instead have a corporate design. For those and other reasons, we're opposed to his proposal. Again, to be clear, we're not opposed to online education. We're opposed to this proposal."

Jim Mahler, President of AFT Local 1931 in the San Diego area and President of CFT’s Community College Council, was even more pointed in his criticism, calling it "boondoggled" and "wrongheaded."

"It's a lot of money to throw at a brand new initiative," he said. "It's going to be a tremendous cost per student. Also, it's duplicative of what we already do. There's already an online community college system in place that serves students, so a proposal that makes more sense is one that aims to beef that up."

He added: "Anything they're trying to do, we already do here internally. It's ridiculous from a policy standpoint."

Both Waddell and Mahler said that a swath of rank and file members as well as CFT officers are doing everything they can to stand in opposition to the proposal. "Many of them have been testifying in Sacramento at Assembly hearings and they'll continue to do so as the May revisions to the state budget are unveiled," Waddell said.

But Mahler believes this legislative battle in Sacramento could be an uphill climb. "Since it's a part of the budget and not a bill, it's going to be a lot harder to kill," he said.
Adjunct Faculty Issues Committee

Kathy Holland and Ken Taira, AFIC Co-Chairs

Useful Tips for Adjuncts, Inside and Outside of the Classroom.

1. All faculty should sign into SAP and check to make sure your emergency contact information is up to date so you can get text messages about any emergencies (such as active shooters, natural disasters, etc.).
2. Add the phone number for campus police to your cell phone and share that number with your students. Include this number in your syllabus and Canvas account. Do NOT call 911—always call campus police first. Allow campus police to escort law enforcement, ambulances, and other responders onto campus.
3. Never sell your textbook(s) in the classroom, including books you have authored. All such book sales must go through the business office/student store. This will help you avoid any conflicts of interest and student complaints. Sales inside the classroom are prohibited by the District.
4. Never give students rides (e.g., rides home or to work). This is prohibited by District rules. This is both a safety and insurance issue. The District does not want to be held liable for accidents and injuries.
5. Being sure to fill out field trip forms or similar forms when:
   a) Having a field trip
   b) Assigning students to go off-campus to visit a museum, exhibit, or any other event.
   c) Giving students extra credit to attend an event off-campus
6. Meeting students off campus for an informal discussion (like at a restaurant) is never a good idea, especially for campus and/or academic business. We have on-campus offices, a library, and other facilities to accommodate faculty-student meetings. Please keep those on campus.
7. Never meet students on campus when the campus is closed. We cannot open classrooms to students on Sundays or late at night, for example. It’s a safety issue. Consider having a virtual conversation instead, using a platform such as CCC Confer (www.cccconfer.org).

Contract Update

from Louise Barbato, Chief Negotiator, AFT 1521

On April 17th, the Guild Executive Board voted to mail hard copies of the 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement to all members’ homes. If you have a recent change of address, contact the Guild at office@aft1521.org.

Preparation for the printing of the contract is proceeding at a good pace. It is foreseen that the contract will be in the hands of all members by the end of the semester.

The contract is at the heart of our employment, and it is with great pleasure and pride that we finalize this document for you.

Guild Election

(Continued from page 1)

stated a run-off election. Be on the lookout for ballots from the American Arbitration Association (AAA), which were mailed to members’ home addresses on May 7th and are due back by May 29th. Ballots will be counted and the winners announced on May 30.

Recording Secretary
- Mindy Chen
- Natalie Nagthall

Mission College Chapter President
- Gary Prostak
- Vilma Bernal

East LA College Executive Board Delegate
- Christopher Garcia
- Jose C. Ramirez

For further information or questions, email Election2018@aft1521.org

Board Of Trustees Meeting

Members of the Guild Student Intern Program, pictured here with President Joanne Waddell, Valley instructor Zack Knorr, and Pierce instructor Shigueru Tsuha, attended a recent LACCD Board of Trustees meeting to urge the Board to appoint rather than hold an expensive election for a trustee to fill the seat vacated by Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

EDD Step by Step: All Hands-on-Computers Workshops

True Adjunct Faculty who fall unemployed or underemployed (making less than $600/week) can receive up to $450/week in unemployment insurance benefits.

EDD Step by Step: All Hands-on-Computers Workshops
Food, camaraderie, and fun assistance with EDD legalese and application ease!

Save the Date! (Light reception after the workshops)
- May 31st Thursday 1:30-3:30 PM
  LA City College Library, Room 123
- June 4th Monday 1:30-3:30 PM
  East LA College, Library Room 103
  Reception in F5-307 (faculty center)

Grace Chee,
EDD Ombudsperson
Gchee99@yahoo.com