

FEBRUARY
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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

SBCCD CTA

Newsletter

President's Report - - -

Greetings,

Much has happened since my last letter at the end of last semester. I can honestly report that the members of your SBCCDTA Executive Board have been very busy. Therefore, let me get right to some of the larger issues and concerns.

The budget remains on ongoing problem and I doubt that will change anytime soon. Although no one really knows at this time what will happen with the proposed state budget, there has been some assurance from our interim Chancellor, Bruce Baron, that we should be able to weather the next year financially. However, much of his prediction is founded on several factors including a positive SERP enrollment. Therefore, we are asking any of you who think the SERP may work, to sign up for consultation and find out whether or not it is a good choice for you at this time. We are hopeful that the needed enrollment will be fulfilled and that this will help us to continue to avert lay-offs.

Benefits for our FT faculty have also been a hot topic over the last few weeks. The District has been very busy trying to find reasonable ways to continue to provide benefits while trying to keep it affordable. And although the union is only one voice on a committee that

merely advises the District on what it would like to see for our members, we have done our best to push for several needs. The need to keep one level with no out of pocket charges for anyone who chooses has remained a constant. The need to keep as many services as possible without driving our costs sky high has also been a consideration. The union also continues its work to try and get our "cap" increased to reflect the real world. Our current "cap" is under negotiations and we are hopeful that there will be a significant increase to that "cap" soon. We will keep you posted.

Finally, there are many proposed propositions being pushed on the California electorate at this point, some of them may not be the best for our profession. So, while I do not doubt our membership's abilities to reason and understand these propositions, I would like to make mention that if you are approached to sign any of these petitions, be careful. There are at least two that deal with items of our concern, one that stops Prop 98 funding to community colleges and one that affects our retirement plans significantly. Aside from these items in the newsletter, you can always get up to date info on our website at sbccd.us or just call any of your Executive Board members directly.

We hope that you will join us our upcoming luncheons and our **Annual Bowling event on February 20th**. Take care for now.

Ed Gomez
SBCCDTA/ President

RUMOR BUSTER

Rumor: The union negotiates the types of benefit packages that the faculty receives.

Truth: The benefit packages are decided solely by the District, with the input of an advisory committee comprised of various district entities, including a rep from the union.

COMMENTS? OR QUESTIONS? PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT E. GOMEZ

SBCCDTA Upcoming Luncheons

Crafton: 11:30-12:30 (3rd Wed.)
February 17th
Crafton Room

Valley: 11:30-12:00 (4th Tue.)
February 23
Sunroom

Upcoming workshop:

“Benefits of Being a Union Member”
Friday, March 5th 2-4 PM

SBCCDTA Office
1997 East Marshall Boulevard
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Refreshments provided!

Musings from the board
Why I’m glad I’m a union member ...

Imagine that after the semester is underway, the college administration notifies you and a quarter of the other full-time faculty that your positions have been eliminated and your employment has been terminated, effective immediately. You are directed to surrender your campus ID and keys, shut down your computer, pack up all personal effects from your office, and leave the campus within one hour – under escort by security guards.

Hard to imagine? Yes, because we are protected by a union. But this is exactly what happened at non-unionized Clark Atlanta University last spring. The CAU administration claimed an “enrollment emergency” and fired sixty full-time faculty, ignoring tenure rights and provisions of the university’s faculty handbook. There was no due process. There was no consultation with faculty leadership before taking this drastic step. The enrollment emergency appears to be unsubstantiated. Faculty members were

selected for dismissal based mainly on administration's subjective perceptions of poorly-defined merit rankings. The administration pressured shocked and vulnerable faculty into forfeiting their right to appeal and to make further claims by offering severance pay ranging from two to eight weeks. This information is from an independent investigation compiled and published by the American Association of University Professors.

**---Submitted by Ruth Greyraven,
CHC biology professor**

For additional information on Clark Atlanta U. Faculty Layoffs, check out the Chronicle of Higher Education blog

May 13, 2009, 12:30 PM ET
**AAUP Plans to Investigate
Clark Atlanta U. Over Faculty
Layoffs**

The [American Association of University Professors](#) informed Clark Atlanta University on Tuesday of plans to investigate the university over its [dismissal of 70 full-time faculty members](#) in February.

In a letter to Clark Atlanta's president, Carlton E. Brown, the associate secretary of the AAUP, B. Robert Kreiser, wrote that the institution's "massive dismissals of faculty" raised "key issues of academic freedom, tenure, and due process" that remain unresolved after two months of communications

with the university. Accordingly, Mr. Kreiser said, the AAUP plans to establish an investigative panel to determine whether the association's committee on academic freedom and tenure needs to take action against the university.

Mr. Carlton had characterized the layoffs, which also included 30 employees who were not full-time faculty members, as a necessary response to budgetary pressures resulting from falling enrollments in recent years. Since 2001, enrollment at the historically black institution has fallen from 5,000 to 3,900.

The college carried out a [similar round of layoffs](#) in 2003, and since then has sought to [eliminate several academic programs](#) to cut costs.

<http://chronicle.com/blogPost/AAUP-Plans-to-Investigate-C/7311/>

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Benefits Corner

[2010 Annual Plan Contribution Limits Remain Unchanged for 403\(b\) and 457 Plans](#)

Are you currently contributing to a 403(b) or 457 plan? The 2010 IRS annual contribution limit for elective deferrals to these plans has remained unchanged from the 2009 limit of \$16,500. The catch-up

contribution amount (\$5,500) for participants age 50 and older is also unchanged.

If you are not contributing to a 403(b) or 457 plan, think again! As a career educator, you can expect to receive approximately 63% of your pre-retirement income through your CalSTRS defined benefit pension.* If you are a CalPERS member, the average monthly service retirement for school miscellaneous members is \$1,134.**

Neither benefit is likely to support your lifestyle or cover retiree medical expenses. In fact, many financial advisors suggest that you'll need 100% of your pre-retirement income in order to maintain your standard of living and cover health care costs in retirement. You can work toward that goal by participating in a 403(b) or 457 plan, which allows you to save for retirement with pre-tax dollars.

You can learn more about saving for retirement by visiting ctainvest.org, CTA's new investment education Web site. It includes [calculators](#) and tips that can help you decide what type of 403(b) or 457 investment is right for you and how to evaluate your current investment. Additionally, CTA has a consumer guide on 403(b) and 457 Plans, which you can access online at ctainvest.org. You may also email business_initiatives@cta.org or call **650-552-5200** to request a free copy.

* CalSTRS.com.
** CalPERS.ca.gov.

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SBCCDTA Calendar of Events

Luncheons

Crafton: 11:30-12:30
Crafton Room
(Third Wednesday)
February 17th
March 24th
April 21st

Valley: 11:30-12:30
Sun Room
(Fourth Tuesday)
February 23rd
March 30th
April 27th

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BOWLING FUN! FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

February 20th at Noon
Empire Bowl
940 W. Colton Ave
Redlands

Bowling, Pizza and Soda!

CTA Sponsored Workshop:

***“Benefits of Being a
Union Member”***

Friday, March 5th 2-4 PM

SBCCDTA Office
1997 East Marshall Boulevard
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Refreshments provided!

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Picnic/BBQ

Sunday May 2nd
11:00-4 pm
Sylvan Park, Redlands

Contact Your Local Union!

We are here for you:

President:	Ed Gomez	384-8596
V-P CHC:	Julie Davis	389-3351
V-P VC:	Richard Jaramillo	384-8505
Treasurer:	Teri Strong	384-8526
Secretary:	Ginny Evans-Perry	384-8699
Negotiations:	Guy Hinrichs	384-5450
PAC:	Steve Hellerman	389-3337
CHC Grievance:	Ruth Greyraven	389-3311
VC Grievance:	James S. Robinson	384-8583
CHC Rep:	Milly Douthit	389-3578
Valley Rep:	Pat Buckley	384-8604
Valley Rep:	Guy Hinrichs	384-5450
Part-Time Rep CHC:		
DeAnna Jensen		dfjcca@gmail.com
Part-Time Rep VC:		
Ed Nuno		cta_nuno_fe@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.sbccd.us>