November 5, 2009

To: FA XCouncil members
Fr: Richard Hansen
Re: XCouncil Summary message

This is _______________, your FA representative with a brief summary of the November 4 Executive Council Meeting.

- Chief Negotiator Anne Paye reported that the team is close to reaching an agreement with the District on full-time faculty health benefits. Essentially, the plan changes remain the same as reported in the November FA News. Once negotiated, a ratification vote will be scheduled by December 1 so the changes can be ready to take effect July 1, following open enrollment in April.

- Negotiations are continuing on part-time health benefits, particularly as affecting those faculty who teach a greater than 50 percent load and currently receive fully-paid Kaiser benefits. FA is working to meet the District’s goal on cost reductions for this item without making the plan prohibitively expensive.

- Reports from budget meetings on both campuses indicate that plans are being formulated to address the drastic cuts in state categorical funds. While adoption of the benefit plan changes will help with some of this enormous budget problem, the colleges are taking a serious look at cutting programs and reducing positions.

- Passage of recent state legislation will permit part-time faculty, as a separate group, to participate in the State Disability Insurance program. Participation would allow part-time faculty access to paid disability and family medical leave, where currently they have no such coverage through their district employment. Since participation in SDI also entails a small payroll deduction, FA will be working to inform part-time faculty and then assess the level of interest in this program.