Benefits Update
CalPERS Transition in Progress: Patience Required

President’s Report
FA PAC Faces Full Agenda
by Richard Hansen, FA President

Recent debate over how to implement the Student Success Task Force (SSTF) recommendations demonstrated that politics sometimes resembles a “contact sport.” In this case, the game among friends became unnecessarily heated. The level of animosity may reflect the influence of political outside forces that are exacerbating conflicts within a group of otherwise congenial competitors.

Several of us here at Foothill-De Anza have become involved in the Sacramento-based drama after taking positions at odds with the Chancellor’s Office enthusiasm for the recommendations that emerged from the SSTF at the end of last year.

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CalPERS Transition Requirements: Even though the CalPERS materials say that the Select Plan is not available to out-of-state residents:

At: The Post-1997/Over Age 65 Fund: Why is the rationale and the purpose of the new Post-1997/Over Age 65 Fund and the 32/35/56 contributions that begin in January 2013? How does this affect the Post-1997 Retired Employee Bridge Program?

At: The Post-1997/Over Age 65 Fund is intended to address the cost of benefits for post-1997 retired employees after age 65, and as such, the fund itself is outside the purview of the Faculty and non-Medicare retirees benefits. However, if this fund will work as yet to be determined; more information will be provided at a later date. This Fund may have no effect on the Post-1997 Retired Employee Bridge Program, which provides a District monthly contribution until age 65; Medicare eligibility for qualified faculty (Article 234.5).

PT Seminar

All part-time faculty are invited to attend this free event on Saturday, May 12, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at De Anza in the California History Center. Sponsored by the California History Research Group and the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy (IHELP). Nancy Shulock's research group.

In California, the cause has been taken up by various foundationsolumina, such as the Gates Foundation, the Lumina Foundation, the Southern Education Foundation, and community college reform researchers at the University of Texas, Austin. In California, the AACC (American Association of Community Colleges) recently released the AACC recommendations.

That the AACC recommendations look much like the STSF recommendations should not be surprising, given that the AACC is a national organization, and the STSF is a state organization. Nevertheless, the AACC report is interesting in that it comes from a national organization that has a significant impact on the state of community colleges.

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