



President's Report

Brian Greene, YFA President

I hope this message finds you well as we head towards the end of the semester. This is my last newsletter as Optimism One takes over as YFA President in May. The past two years have flown by, and there are many highlights as I reflect on our successes as an organization as well as where we still have work to do. High on the list of positives is the contract we adopted last year, which ushered in numerous improvements, such as gains towards part-time instructional pay parity, increased sabbatical compensation and more. Top of the list for me was working closely with MJC colleagues again and I will miss the productive meetings and chance encounters alike.

But the semester isn't over yet and we still have a lot to do. Both colleges are planning sabbatical info sessions this month to help interested faculty learn about the process. During finals week we'll have an open house in the YFA spaces with some additional treats. And regalia is again available to borrow for those who need it for graduation. Contact Amber at yfa@yosemite.edu to make arrangements.

I've enjoyed serving as YFA President and having an opportunity to connect with and help so many faculty that I otherwise wouldn't have. Thank you.

Negotiations Update

Shelley Akiona Traub, Lead Negotiator

On March 14, YCCD finally presented a draft MOU and observation form to evaluate online courses to meet ACCJC Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) standards. YCCD's MOU presented the RSI review process as a peer mentor project, with instructor-level access to our Canvas shells, and up to three in-depth course reviews. This process could lead to improvement plans for faculty without sufficient RSI. It is clear that this is actually an off-cycle evaluation. YFA responded at the March 28 session with a counter MOU. We included language that protects faculty rights during this evaluation process. Additionally, YFA presented demands to be negotiated as meeting the new RSI standard will result not only in an off-cycle evaluation for all online faculty, but also create an ongoing increased workload to adjust courses and increase instructor-student interactions. Mandatory training will also be required to bring faculty up to speed on the RSI requirements, and faculty will need that training to prepare Fall classes over the summer. YFA recognizes that this work is needed for MJC accreditation and has been willing to work with the District toward an agreement before the end of the term so all faculty will have time to plan for changes. As a reminder, any and all faculty/course evaluation processes are a mandatory subject of bargaining. YFA will continue to protect your interests while also being ready to assist MJC in meeting ACCJC requirements. Stay tuned for more updates after our final scheduled negotiations session of the semester on April 11.

Know Your Contract

Article 3.2.2 of the contract defines the end of the work year for faculty. It states that "[t]he work year for an instructional or non-instructional faculty member shall end once the faculty member's accountable time has been met and final grades are turned in (if applicable)." Final grades are typically due by the Tuesday following graduation. Over the summer, most faculty are off contract and can work part-time if assignments are available, per the rehire process in Article 7 of the contract. (Some faculty annualize their loads or are on extended contracts, in which case their summer obligations are different.) If you are on a hiring committee over the summer then be sure to work with the coordinating administrator's office to get paid for the time spent in committee meetings, interviews and deliberations.

Summer Operations

The YFA Office has limited hours in June and July. YFA officers are available to assist you throughout the summer. Please use yfa@yosemite.edu to contact us.

Calendar

- April 2 - YFA Exec Board Meeting
- April 16 - Rep Council Meeting
- April 21 - MJC Sabbatical Info Session
- April 23 - Ice Cream Social at Columbia