

To: Pasadena City College Board of Trustees:
From: Languages Division Faculty
Date: September 18, 2012

We are writing to you because we are still shocked at the sudden decision to cut the Winter Intersession in the middle of the academic year and begin Spring semester on January 7. Faculty believe that you should be well informed of the consequences of such a move, both in the short and long term. A significant number of faculty, staff and students will be severely impacted by the sudden elimination of Winter Intersession.

Since the yearly calendar is set up over a year in advance, *faculty who planned to prepare new courses or make substantial changes to existing courses have no time to do so in only two weeks of the busiest holiday season of the year.* There are many faculty who have already made travel plans that can't be changed, or at least without great hardship. The College may need to hire substitutes.

In addition, there have already been *major conflicts with Study Abroad Programs* (Costa Rica 2013 had to be cancelled because it takes place in Winter). Furthermore, *students won't be able to make up the courses lost in the Winter during the Spring semester because there will be no additional courses to fill out a full load.* This will delay student completion and negatively impact student success.

Pedagogically the elimination of Winter will have serious, destructive consequences, the negative effects of which will be fully understood later on. In some disciplines, like languages, *students will not retain what they learned after a gap of 4 months*, from May to August, since for most foreign languages only Level 1 is offered during the Summer Intersession. All the other colleges in the Los Angeles/Orange County areas, even if they are not offering courses in the Winter, are not eliminating the Winter Intersession.

Students, faculty and the Faculty Association have asked all the members of the Board to reconsider this drastic change and respect contractual integrity and shared governance. In order to make a fair decision, the Board can't rely only on administrative officials. Instructors are on the front line. Our input is vital if the wisdom and experience of the faculty still means something at Pasadena City College. Unfortunately the letter of the FA was ignored,

Faculty and students were ignored and this creates a widespread loss of confidence.

Therefore we ask you, in the name of many colleagues who are shocked, disappointed and angered, to reconsider the decision to cut the Winter Intersession. For our students, our College and our community, we want PCC to continue to excel and be a model of integrity and student success.

Sincerely,
Rita D'Amico, and ...