

Dear members of the Board:

I hesitated to write a letter expressing my feelings about what has been occurring at PCC for fear of “outing” myself, but this issue is too important for me to remain silent.

It is outrageous that there are those who think that the faculty and our representatives are merely expressing our opposition to the President, his administration, and the Board, because we are unhappy with our contract negotiations.

Here’s the coming out part--I am a faculty member who thinks that we should pay for part of our medical and that a change in California’s pension system is necessary, lest we become a larger version of Stockton. Having said that, I am still unhappy with the way the administration and Board is treating us and our students.

My personal story is not that interesting and certainly not tragic, but I am teaching a reduced load this semester because of the sudden change in the Spring calendar. My husband and I had planned a 5 week vacation starting January 1st. When the schedule changed, I was told I could teach 12 weeks starting 2/4 or an 8 week schedule starting 4 weeks after that. I was supposed to return from my vacation on 2/5 so I had to return early to accommodate the 12-week schedule.

There are a lot of things that I could have done but my first concern was my students. I teach a tough Accounting class and did not think it was fair to my students to have 3 of the 5 sections of this course, which are taught by me, to be compressed to 12 weeks. I gave up one of my sections to a colleague and teach only 2 of these courses.

Again, not much of a problem for me, but my students are struggling a bit more than under a 16 week schedule. I also teach an online Business Management class and I have had ½ of the students drop already because they cannot keep up with the work under a 12 week schedule.

So please do not tell me that I am being selfish or that you know better about my students, or the other students at this school.

Dr. Kate Meehan

Business and Computer Technology