

February 12, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Last night, at the Board Of Trustees meeting, I was reminded again that I work with some of the most passionate, intelligent, and dedicated educators.

Our colleagues shared their frustration again with the Board Of Trustees and the delay in negotiations. On behalf of faculty, Dr. Naji Dahi (Organizing Committee Chair and Professor of Political Science) presented the Board with a Vote Of No Confidence in Irma Ramos, the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Lead Negotiator for the District. The Vote Of No Confidence had over 350 signatures from our full-time faculty across the district.

Nearly 150 faculty members and students from our sister campuses showed up in red shirts and signs. The public comments section lasted almost two hours and was filled with passionate speeches. Dr. Adel Rajab (Biology Professor, spoke passionately about lab/lecture parity. Professor Rhett Price (Physical Education, Fullerton) Price spoke about the lack of commitment of our district to bringing us to the 75th percentile as was promised more than once during his long tenure at Fullerton College. Dr. Matt Tribbe spoke about the rising cost of living in Orange County, and how our faculty's purchasing power has diminished over the years. Former and current students spoke about the hard work that teachers do, and how they are disheartened to learn that educators don't get paid wages that reflect their performance and the financial health of the District.

Last night was very emotional for so many reasons, but one of the biggest reasons for me was seeing our colleagues from our sister campuses sit next to each other, stand next to each other, and engage with one another. In the past, our District has tried to divide us and create a culture of competition and "Us vs Them." This is no longer the case. We are one Union in a fight for a fair and meaningful settlement. What we are building right now isn't about one round of negotiations but about a culture of solidarity and unity that will send a strong message to the District that we will not be pushed around. This message was very clear in President Diep's report to the BOT.

Thank you for showing up en masse, and thank you to those that showed support but couldn't make it.

Please remember to wear your red shirts TODAY for Red Shirt Wednesday!

Please visit our Facebook page for updates, pictures, and videos of last night's Union action.

<https://www.facebook.com/ufnorthorange/>

In Solidarity,

Mohammad M. Abdel Haq, M.A.
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UF Lead Negotiator
Fullerton College, Fullerton

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will" - Frederick Douglass