



Board of Trustees
Peralta Community College District
333 East 8th Street
Oakland, California 94606

May 11, 2010

Dear Trustees,

We are writing on behalf of the membership of the California Community College Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA) and more specifically, our colleague, Ms. Eileen Pippins, Student Services Program Specialist/Student Activities at Berkeley City College. Ms. Pippins' position is on today's agenda for elimination due to the current fiscal crisis. We urge you to carefully consider the profound, long-term implications your college and its students could experience as a result of this decision and ask you to remove this item from your consent agenda. Peralta's own Board Policy #4.45, "Student Activities" states that "student activities are recognized by the District as an integral part of a community college's total program." Eliminating the only FTE position in this area does not support the previous statement and denies the student body the support needed for a vibrant campus life program.

CCCSAA believes that Campus Life/Student Activities programs are a fundamental element in the holistic development of students. In the book *Involving Colleges: Successful Approaches to Fostering Student Learning and Development Outside the Classroom*, it is stated that up to 70 percent of what a student learns at college occurs outside the classroom. While not all of this is based in a campus' student activities program, a majority can be supported through these programs. *Involving Colleges'* authors Kuh, Schuh and Whitt classify out of classroom experiences into seven categories: cultural, social, political, communication, religious, academic and athletic. Of these, all but "academic" can be promoted and developed through the campus life/student activities structure.

Additionally, several standards of The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) may also be addressed using student activities programs and data. In the college's 2009 Evaluation Report, the visiting team from the ACCJC made note of Berkeley's student life in the Standard II.B "Student Support Services" section as an element advancing the college's stated mission.

Throughout the State, CCCSAA members/student affairs professionals:

- Advise student government organizations
- Facilitate student involvement in shared governance as mandated by AB 1725

- Develop students' leadership skills
- Oversee campus clubs and all their activities, limiting the college's fiduciary and legal liabilities
- Advise campus activities programming boards
- Build campus community
- Coordinate special events for students with campus programs and services
- Function as a liaison between the student government and the college/District administration
- Act as the first level of fiduciary control for student accounts
- Serve as mentor/counselor to student leaders

We believe that all students involved in campus governance, representation and student activities deserve to have a singular, central support point to encourage and promote their endeavors. As of the writing of this letter, the administration of Berkeley City College has announced no plans for the redistribution of tasks and responsibilities of the employee being laid off, nor any indication of preservation of the program. We find this action to be short-sighted and not fair to the employee, the students, or the community the college is charged with serving. Please do not make this decision in haste, but rather as an intentional, deliberate choice.

Respectfully,

The Executive Board of California Community College Student Affairs Association:

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