

CTA is your advocate for all issues related to compensation and workload. We need to know if the District representatives violate your rights under the contract at any time. Please contact your CTA representatives any-time you have questions or concerns.

Imperial Valley College CTA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3
June 3, 2015



The 2014/2015 IVC-CTA negotiating team has been working diligently all year. From left to right, Sidne Horton, David Zielinski, Mary Lofgren, Javier Rangel, and Frank Hoppe.

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It's all about the money... Latest negotiations news

By Mary Jo Wainwright

Negotiations between CTA and the District for a new contract began in earnest earlier this year. The current CTA contract expires June 30, 2015, but never fear: if a new contract settlement is not reached by then, the current contract stays in effect.

In preparation for negotiations, your negotiators and I have spent many long hours receiving training, analyzing the old contract, dialoging with constituents, and developing a wide range of proposals. At times, the going has been slow. But we are still going—with a sense of purpose and a hopeful attitude.

We have a good grasp of the basic issues driving negotiations. One key reality: according to many reports, this is the best budget year for California Community Colleges in perhaps the last 20 years.

Of course, the District has its own interpretations, some of them presented in the “IVC President’s Update,” distributed via email to the campus last week. The District acknowledges the positive budget situation in a short section on the second page of the “Update,”

entitled “State Updates: May Revise, Good News.” This good news includes some of the following details:

- \$75 million to support an increase in full-time faculty hiring
- \$141.7 million in additional funds for support of district general operating expenses
- \$274.7 million in additional one-time funds to pay down prior mandate obligations
- \$148 million for instructional equipment
- \$60 million in one-time funds for Basic Skills

But the District adds some “cautions”:

- Colleges have not yet fully recovered from the bad times
- We have not completely restored access
- College budgets will face additional stresses with increased PERS and STRS obligations

Summer Considerations

Remember that you are not obligated to work over the summer for committee work, a hiring committee, or any other extra work besides summer school that you committed to.

If you are asked to work, please contact CTA president Mary Jo Wainwright at maryjo.wainwright@imperial.edu.

California Community Colleges

The great equalizer

From the CCA website

The California Community Colleges have often been called, "The Equalizer."

California Community Colleges enroll more minority students than any other higher education system.

Slightly over 7% of the students attending the California Community Colleges are African American. They represent 6% of the overall California population. Asian students comprise 11% of the students attending the California Community Colleges. They represent 12% of the overall California population. Hispanic students attending the California Community Colleges represent 30%. They represent 37% of the overall California population.

California's Community Colleges are the largest higher education system in the world. There are 72 districts, 112 colleges, and 2.8 million students who are attending one of our colleges at this time. Our colleges serve 73 percent of all students enrolled in California higher education.

Approximately 24% of all the community college students nationwide are enrolled in a California community college. Two-thirds of all CSU graduates and over one-third of UC graduates began their college training at a community college or transferred from a community college.

The advantages of attending a California community college are many, however, here are just a few. We have an open door policy. This means that anyone with a high school diploma or GED may attend.

The cost of attending a community college is also an incentive. The student fees of \$26 per unit are the lowest tuition paid in the entire United States. However, over 1/3 of our students qualify for a waiver of those fees because of the financial status. The ability to transfer to a prestigious college as a junior is also an advantage to attending a community college. Two-third of California community college students who transfer to UC complete a bachelor's degree within three years of entering UC. This rate is comparable to the UC students who entered as freshmen. Also, those students who transfer from California community colleges to the University of California account for 48% of UC's bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

California's community colleges train many of the state's public workers. Over 80% of California's first responders: the firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs are credentialed at the California Community Colleges. Slightly over 70% of the nurses in California received their education from the California Community Colleges.

Happy Hour Tops Survey Results

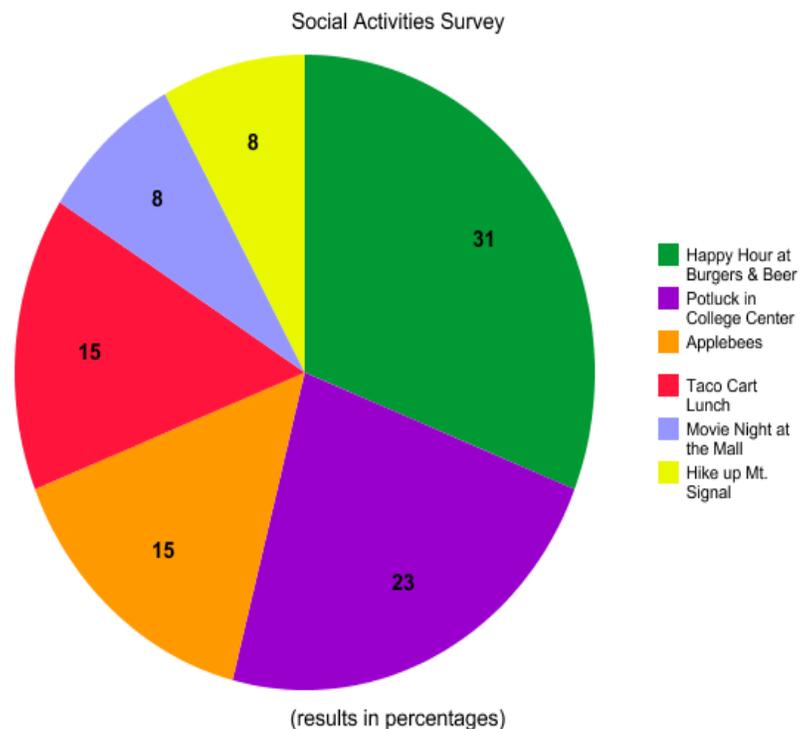
Happy Hour at Burgers & Beer was the top social activity that was voted on the ivccta.com website.

Also gathering votes were a potluck at the College Center, a Taco Cart lunch, and dinner at Applebees.

This past year, IVC-CTA held two social activities. The first was a successful taco cart luncheon at the College Center in the fall semester. In the spring, IVC-CTA sponsored a lunch in the college center to complement the CTA elections. More than 70 people showed up to the lunch, which was catered by Chips 'n Salsa.

So what happened to Happy Hour at Burgers and Beer? "That will probably be our social activity in the fall 2015 semester," said IVC-CTA president, Mary Jo Wainwright.

The new survey on the ivccta.com website asks what faculty think about having Thanksgiving week off. Go to www.ivccta.com to take part in the latest survey.



Negotiations, cont.

Cont. from page 1

However, aside from the details offered in the aforementioned “Update” from the IVC President’s Office, there are a number of local realities here at IVC that deserve mention.

At the moment, we are still awaiting news from ACCJC regarding our accreditation “Warning Status.” With this reality in the background, it seems fair to question the efficacy of the District’s budgeting process.

For example, SPOL is not doing what the District thought it would do in responding to the ACCJC mandate: “Instruction must drive the budget.”

In addition, the ACCJC has made it clear that the District must balance the budget.

Interestingly, the first draft budget presented in March to the Budget and Planning Committee showed a \$33,000 surplus for 2015-2016.

This is what came out initially from the Program Review process. Then, at each subsequent Budget and Planning meeting, the budget went deeper into the red, from a \$71,000 deficit in the first revision, a \$394,000 deficit in the

third revision, and as of May 27, a projected deficit of more than \$1 million.

The purported reasons for the increasing deficits included omissions of faculty salaries from early reports, the fiscal impact of the termination of the ATLAS grant, and the continuing FTES struggles in light of not meeting our enrollment cap.

Furthermore, the CSEA settlement and the President’s recent approval of \$300,000 in budget enhancements also play a role.

The skeptical among you might infer that the District is adjusting its budget projections in light of the fact that they saw all the union proposals and had a pretty clear idea of what they would be in store for at the bargaining table.

Returning to the state-level budget picture, it would be useful to reconvey some of the key positive fiscal details from Sacramento:

- Governor Brown’s May budget revision bodes very well for community colleges, with a goal of continuing to move towards restoration of lost funding during the recession.
- There is money for growth funds to increase student access, more full time faculty, deferred maintenance and equipment, COLA, and increased operating costs—including the increases Districts have for funding pension costs.

“[T]his is the best budget year for California Community Colleges in perhaps the last 20 years.”

- There is a lot of money targeting various categorical programs such as Student Success, Student Equity, and Basic Skills.

So, the question bears repeating: why does IVC have a projected budget shortfall of \$1 million for 2015-2016?

It would be great to send you off to a nice summer vacation with a settlement agreement, but there is still a lot of work to take care of before that settlement is reached.

Since you will be gone during the summer, it is difficult to get input from you with regards to any new offers the District might make during the summer. However, please stay tuned. If necessary during the summer, I will send emails to your private email addresses.

I wish you all a much deserved break and hope you have a chance to rest up and recharge.

If you have any responses to this article, please send me an email: mwainwrigh@aol.com I will be off campus starting in late June, but I am always available by email.

If your question or comment is on negotiations, please use this private email address. If it is on regular college issues or you need help during the summer with any union issues, please use my IVC email address.

Happy Summer!

“[A]t each subsequent Budget and Planning meeting, the budget went deeper into the red, from a \$71,000 deficit in the first revision, a \$394,000 deficit in the third revision, and as of May 27, a projected deficit of more than \$1 million.”

IVC CCA/CTA/NEA

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YOUR ADVOCATE

ivccta.com

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

The Revised (2015) Bylaws were approved by a vote of 96 to 1.

The Executive Board was re-elected for another one-year term for the 2015/16 academic year:

President--MaryJo Wainwright

Vice President--Eric Lehtonen

Treasurer--Ed Wells

Faculty Representative--Jim Fisher

Secretary--Dolores Diaz

Corresponding Secretary--Kathleen Dorantes

Congratulations!

To the 2015 retirees:

- ◆ Donna Davis, Professor of Nursing, 14 years
- ◆ Van Decker, Professor of Music, 15 years
- ◆ Eric Jacobson, Professor of Political Science, 23 years
- ◆ Craig Luoma, Professor of Nursing, 30 years
- ◆ Brian McNeece, Professor of ESL, 29 years
- ◆ Laura Mosier, Professor of Speech, 10 years
- ◆ Diedre Pollock, Professor of Nursing, 30 years
- ◆ Betsy Riehle, Professor of Mathematics, 13 years

To the 2015-tenured faculty:

- ◆ Terrie Sullivan, Nursing
- ◆ Roberta Webster, Nursing

To the CTA members earning the President's Distinguished Service Award:

- ◆ Trini Arguelles
- ◆ Michael Heumann
- ◆ Jill Nelipovich
- ◆ Norma Nunez