

September 8, 2009

Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division

Re: Resources for Engaging in Faculty Furlough Discussions

Dear Senate Colleagues,

As the opening of the 2009-10 academic year approaches, there is widespread recognition that our campus faces extraordinary challenges. In the first of what I hope will be frequent messages, I write to provide resources for critical thinking and discourse.

As many of you know, in a letter dated August 31, 2009, a group of faculty called for a systemwide faculty walkout (suspension of classes) on Thursday, September 24, 2009 ([click here to see call](#)). There is now much discussion on the campuses about the planned walkout. For our campus, as for all the quarter-based campuses, the timing of the walkout is complicated. September 24 is our first day of class. Faculty I have spoken to feel strongly, on both sides, about the appropriateness of the first day of instruction for a collective action.

The call to protest was spurred by the August 21 letter of Interim Provost Lawrence Pitts, wherein he ruled that furloughs cannot be taken on a broadly-defined notion of instructional days. ([click here for the Pitts letter](#)). In determining that furloughs cannot occur on any days of scheduled student contact, UC Office of the President rejected and dismissed the unanimous Academic Council recommendation ([click here](#)) for furloughs on instructional days. I think it is fair to say that Interim Provost Pitts' letter makes a farce of shared governance. On August 27, 2009, our Senate Executive Committee issued a strong letter of objection to the Pitts letter ([click here for SEC's letter to Chancellor Blumenthal](#)).

The Pitts letter, and the ill-considered implementation of furloughs, joins two extraordinary challenges to UC's historic strength - the unacceptable decline in public financial support and the deterioration of a strong faculty voice in governance. Both must be restored.

There are a number of suggestions circulating about what to do. I recommend all faculty educate themselves about the administrative reaction to the budget situation and the governance crisis. I am not endorsing any of the positions or analyses contained below; I hope only to make available to faculty some resources for becoming informed.

1. read UCOP material on the crisis here:
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/budget/>

2. read material from the UCSC administration here:
http://www.ucsc.edu/budget_update/article.asp?pid=2994
3. the work of the academic Senate can be found under “Highlights” on the Senate website: <http://senate.ucsc.edu/>
4. read material from the Council of UC Faculty Associations (CUCFA) website here: <http://keepcaliforniapromise.org>
5. Reports--formal and informal--links, letters, documents, and a wide range of material about the crisis here:
<http://utotherescue.blogspot.com/>

In the weeks ahead, I hope we can all be engaged in productive conversations about the future of our campus and the UC system. I will use the Senate webpage to provide updates and resources.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Kletzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being more prominent than the last name "Kletzer".

Lori Kletzer, Chair
Academic Senate