

Precinct 11 represents the Music and Theatre Arts Departments

I became a Delegate for Precinct 11 a few years ago when I was nominated anonymously to the position. After the reshaping of the precincts in recent years, ours now includes the Music and Theatre Arts Departments. In the last year, the impending Friedrichs decision provided one motivation for the union to strengthen its membership, encouraging fee-payers to become voting members. I would like to continue to build on this strength within our precinct and be a voice for both full-time and part-time faculty within our departments. I also pledge to work in partnership with my Music Department colleague, Matthew Creer, who is also a candidate for Delegate in Precinct 11.

The prolonged contract negotiations, having now continued for more than a year, have revealed the District's attack on part-time faculty as well as its disrespect for faculty as a whole. Its intention to offer minimal raises for faculty notwithstanding increases in the cost of living and being essentially frozen at wage levels below 2007 is untenable. The misuse of Proposition A funds and the absence of promised oversight for this money from City voters are a disgrace. The ample financial resources for administrators, consultants and lawyers show the real priorities of this District.

Outside of the union, I am part of the Lobby Committee, an original component of the Save CCSF Coalition. I am also working on two issues related to the Balboa Reservoir. One priority is seeking the completion of the voter-approved Performing Arts Education Center, which is essential for the future of our two departments, but also provides a means to build enrollment and generate revenue, as other such facilities in the region have done. This projected facility not only provides the long-needed 650-seat theater/auditorium but offers a replacement to the substandard facility that the departments have been coping with for far too long; the renovation of the backfill space should offer significant relief for other departments that need additional space. The PAEC should also be a campus asset in terms of a number of large classrooms that would be available to all departments. The other issue I am following closely is the process whereby the City is attempting to have housing built on the Lower Balboa Reservoir site, in the face of neighborhood opposition. It poses a threat to the College through the likely removal, or the severe restrictions on the use of that site for supplementary student parking. (500 units of housing plus amenities would no doubt require a significant portion of that space.) In the current planning process, the Administration has not been effectively representing the interests of the College.

Thank you for considering me for continued service to Precinct 11 and AFT 2121.

Harry Bernstein
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