



# SMC Hourly Advocate

Volume 21, Issue 3

June 2007

## Part-time Committee Meets With Trustee Rob Rader

By Martin Goldstein

On Thursday, May 17, after the FA General Assembly meeting, Lantz Simpson, FA President, along with Becka Curtis, Part-time Committee Co-Chair, Ben Martin from speech, Michael Strathearn from chemistry, Launa Nelson, the other Part-time Co-Chair, and myself, met for lunch in the Bread Factory with Rob Rader, SMC Trustee since 2004. Rob's attention and concern was evident from the start, with the concerns of our group, representing the concerns of all part-timers here at SMC, being front and center.

After a general discussion and individual introductions and work histories of those at the meeting, who averaged over ten years each of part-time work at SMC, we brought up the concerns culled from the part-time survey earlier this year. One was concern that all part-timers get office hours, not just those in certain English and Math courses. It's part of being a professional teacher, and getting them, and having them paid for, is a sign of professional respect. Some part-timers now have that; all should have it.

Given that it costs something to do that, but not all that much, what else might be on our wish list? More money for all, some movement on the parity scale, where part-timers are between 65-70% of fulltimers, depending on office hours, and where no movement has been made since it was established contractually in 1993. Others schools such as San Francisco are up to 90%, and, not-coincidentally, have a much better ratio of fulltime to part-timers. The more you pay part-timers, Adam Smith would have said, the less economic incentive there is to hire them, vs. more expensive but higher contributing full-timers.

## CPFA Plenary at Butte College

May 4-6, 2007

By Lin Fraser

*Lin Fraser was a founding member of CPFA, the California Part-time Faculty Association back in 1998, which first met in El Chorro State Park near Santa Maria. Over the years, writing on CPFA's El Chorro listserv, she has proudly earned her self-proclaimed sobriquet, "Evil-Lin, Curmudgeon at Large." However, in this report from the recent CPFA conference, she has -- momentarily -- changed her tune.*

Those of you who could not manage to attend this year's CPFA Plenary missed a very informative and very good time (thanks to our



Part-time leaders (L-R): Pamela Hanford, Deborah Dahl-Shanks, Stacey Burks, Craig Flanery, Sharon Vogel, Mary Ellen Goodwin, CPFA Chair David Milroy.

hosts at Butte College.) While some may argue that the plenaries cover the S.O.S. year after year--to a certain extent that might be considered true--but only for those of us who attend year after year. New faces need educating, and we did indeed have new faces.

*Continued on page 2.*

*CPFA continued from page 1.*

But this year, the plenary was not the S.O.S. Sure, we had the usual updates and many of the presenters were some of the same old faces--not by age, certainly, but by how often we see them. But we also had new faces as well, new people with energy and hope.

Indeed, what was really different this year was the energy in the room, the light at the end of the tunnel, and a well-deserved sense of accomplishment.

Discussions about what we should do to get AB 591 passed included information that some of us had not considered before, such as helping/advising our sponsor on other issues in which we or he have a stake.

And, those of us at the plenary can now start humming "I'm just a bill up on Capitol Hill" as we reflect on just what it takes to get a bill through all the processes in order to get it passed.

The mind-boggling process of what happens when we get someone to carry a bill at times seems overwhelming. But thanks to the tireless efforts of Peg McCormick, Robert Yoshioka, David Milroy, Stacey Burks, and the dedicated others who in one way or another have enthusiastically offered their time and energy, CPFA is increasingly influential and certainly more savvy than ever.

When we began at El Chorro Park lo these many years ago, we were called upstarts and a "wannabe" union. But, we lit a lot of fires under the seats of other organizations purportedly representing part-timers, and one by one, they s-l-o-w-l-y began to respond to part-timer needs. Frankly, I believe that CPFA embarrassed them.

Today, CPFA has become very visible and respected, and has become a force to be reckoned with.

Folks, this is not a small accomplishment. We are not a large union or professional organization. We don't have the luxury of big bucks. We simply have dedicated individuals.

CPFA has always operated on what is less than a shoestring budget. But to sustain the momentum, what we really need is for the less involved members of CPFA to become more active.

If being up front in political activities is not your cup of tea, start recruiting more CPFA members. Who knows? You may be recruiting the next Peg or Robert or David or Stacy.

Our present go-getters cannot be leading forever. (Heck, one of them just might land a fulltime position.) We need new blood to carry on the work of CPFA, so talk to your part-time colleagues.

Get your fellow sufferers to join CPFA. The lowest membership fee is only \$35.00 a year, and that should not break the bank. Omitting just ten or so trips so to Starbucks would just about cover the membership dues.

As for what else you may have missed at this year's plenary, you missed some REALLY good food. I don't know which was better, the Cinco de Mayo luncheon or the evening's dinner. And the continental breakfast was far grander than any I have experienced.

Also, one of the guest speakers, David Danielson was a pure joy--and an administrator to boot. Having come from the ranks of part-timers, he has definitely not forgotten his roots, and the part-timers at Butte College are lucky to have him.

I guess that's about it for now.

Today, not-so-Evil-Lin, Curmudgeon-at-



Robert Yoshioka as the Freeway Flyer.

*Rader continued from page 1.*

At San Francisco City College, for example, that's exactly what happened; they are just about at 75/25, and, in a further non-coincidence, the number of administrators is less than those schools (like ours) which rely heavily on part-timers (52% of WTH) -- "a disgraceful number," Rob acknowledged.

That number, and similar ones in the form of "benchmarks," are going to be part of the negotiating environment this season -- and far beyond that, we hope. Higher Education in general, and the community college system in particular have gotten into bad habits since the glory days of the State Master Plan, by not hiring fulltimers and over-hiring and over-using part-timers. But things are starting to change everywhere,



Trustee Rob Rader

and if we at Santa Monica College are as committed to excellence as we say we are, we must do better. Our students need a lot more help these days, and it's hard to help students while stuck in traffic on the 405. We can't give excellent service to our students when 52% (rather than 25%) of all FTES teaching hours are taught by part-timers -- most of whom don't even have office hours.

We closed the meeting with the thought that the additional sums expected to go the College if, as expected by all, the Community College Initiative passes in February of 2008, could be become a major factor in this equation. State-wide legislation dealing with part-time issue will continue next legislative session and it may be able to put some funding strings on that CCI money. And, regardless of state actions, which still have the governor to deal with, the Board of Trustees of Santa Monica College can decide what they want to do with that extra \$44 million over five years. Let's hope they want to do the right thing with it and do right by us. We'll see.

**Be sure and pick up your**

# **PART-TIME FACULTY HANDBOOK**

Spring 2007

*"Keeping you in the Loop"*

Prepared by the  
SMC Faculty Association  
Part-time Committee

Available from your Department Chair  
or the Faculty Association.

**SMC Hourly Advocate**  
Founder, Jim Prickett

**Editorial Board**

Martin Goldstein, Editor  
Lantz Simpson, President  
Dennis Frisch, Vice President  
Mitra Moassessi, Chief Negotiator  
Kathy Sucher, Website

Santa Monica College Faculty Association  
1900 Pico Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Phone 310-434-4394  
FAX 310-434-3601  
Website: <http://www.smcfa.org>

# Second Ever Part-Time Party is a Smash Success!

By Becca Curtis

The second ever part-time party took place on Friday May 4, at the home of Becca Curtis, Co-chair of the Faculty Association Part-time Committee. A great time was had by all. The food was fabulous: sushi, shrimp cocktail, hot baked ziti, sandwiches, salads, vegetables, fruit, and off course a big chocolate cake saying "Welcome Part-timers." Lantz Simpson, JT Curtis, and Becca Curtis performed an impromptu jam session: performing some Janis, some Neil, and some Aretha (with Kathy Sucher on background vocals) and don't forget "Layla." Very special thanks to Launa Nelson and Sandra Powazek for all their help, and thanks to all the kitchen helpers, Mitra Moassessi, Kathy Sucher, Vicki Blaho, Melissa Michelson, and Lantz Simpson.

President Lantz Simpson announced the launch of the first ever Faculty Association *Part-time Handbook* for SMC, created by the FA Part-time Committee. The handbook is being distributed to your department chairs, so contact your department for a copy. Some have been distributed to your boxes. We will be up-dating the *Handbook* for in-coming part-timers in the Fall of 2007. The handbook is also available online on the FA SMC website: [www.smcfaf.org](http://www.smcfaf.org).

Here are a few comments from party goers:

Dyana Valentine, Counseling: "Thank you so much for hosting the part-time party. I met some very interesting peers! I really appreciate the handbook too -- I wish I'd had it four months ago. Best.

Stephanie Donon, Graphic Design: "Thanks for the party. It was really nice to meet and talk with other part-timers. I met a lot of nice people. The food was great. And you have a beautiful home. I learned so much and I hope to be more tuned in to what CPFA (California Part-time Faculty Association) is doing."

Charlotte Holtzermann, Life Science: "Thank you for arranging and hosting the SMC part-time party. I enjoyed the drive up to your house, meeting some very interesting people, and getting a feel for the diverse faculty at SMC. And Thank you for the handbook -- it's great."

Steven Zucker, English: "Another wonderful party. You are such a generous, gracious hostess, seen replacing and replenishing all the goodies."

Tommy Tong, English: "Thanks so much for hosting a wonderful party. I had a lot of fun and enjoyed meeting everyone. The music was awesome. Rock on!"

Robbin Jeffries, Sociology: "Thanks for the party and the opportunity to meet some great new people."

So many people came, and commented on how they loved the party, we will just have to do it again: Thanks to Wendi Brown, Art History; Claudio Egalon, Physical Sciences; Elham Gheyntanchi, Social Science; Vicki Blaho, Melissa Michelson, ESL; Jolia Einstein, English; Maria Barrio de Mendoza, Modern Language; Felice Farber, Social Science; Christopher Davis, History; Marci Spiegler, Life Sciences; Rosalyn Kahn, Communication; Richard Mednick, Business; Jesse Teplitzky, Head Men's Basketball Coach; Saundra Woodruff, English; Joan Hackeling and Meredith Leonard, Earth Science; Cezar Galvez, Physical Sciences; Karen Perkins, Life Sciences; Michael Strathearn, Physical Science; Dyana Valentine, Counseling; Margarita Talleda, Education; Andrea Spector, ESL; Mary Pillot, Emeritus; Laura Guild, Psychology; Marsha Cooper, Emeritus; Grace Chee, History; Kathy Sucher, FA Secretary; Mitra Moassessi, FA Chief Negotiator; Lantz Simpson, FA President; Steven Kaufman, Sandra Powazek, Launa Nelson, Becca Curtis, and so many more. Thanks to everyone for making it a wonderful part-time event.