



February 18, 2010

Professor Mitra Moassessi
SMC Faculty Association President

Professor Howard A. Stahl
SMC Faculty Association Chief Negotiator

Dear Professors Moassessi and Stahl:

In response to your letter dated January 7, 2010, the District has decided to take the opportunity to begin negotiations for a new college bargaining agreement with the Faculty Association. This decision was reached after careful consideration of many factors.

The college believes the positive working atmosphere we have fostered affords a unique opportunity for us to engage in fruitful negotiations to clarify the language in certain sections of the contract that can greatly reduce future disagreements. Also, by maintaining a collegial demeanor, the negotiating teams can make effective use of time and limit the cost of negotiations. In this climate of declining revenues and relentless cost increases, we can work together to look for creative ways to maintain adequate health care and other benefits to college members and still allow the college to provide effective teaching to our students.

Please feel free to contact me, Marcy Wade, Vice-President of Human Resources, or Robert Myers, Campus Counsel, if you would like to discuss the District's decision in further detail. We understand that you intend to "sunshine" the items you would like to bargain at the March 2nd Board of Trustees meeting. We look forward to receiving the items that will be submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chui L. Tsang".

Chui L. Tsang
Superintendent/President