

From: Victor Jaime [mailto:victor.jaime@imperial.edu]
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 11:24 AM
To: Moderated All Users List
Cc: Board of Trustees
Subject: [ivc-allusers] Letter from Board President Karla Sigmond

Campus Community,

Below is a letter from Board President Karla Sigmond:

Dear Campus Community,

I realize it is rare for an IVC board president to send a direct letter to the campus community but these are extra-ordinary times and I feel it is imperative that I reach out and give some perspective from where I sit.

First of all, I want to express how proud I feel of our administration and classified staff, and our faculty for their superb services you provide our students. We graduated a record number of students last May, because of the contributions you have made to the educational lives of our students many of whom would not have this opportunity without IVC. As difficult as it has been, you have banded together to help us work through fiscal challenges for the past several years as well as the myriad of accreditation, self-studies, interim reports, and visits we have faced.

I have been involved in union activities throughout my teaching career and understand the frustration that some of you have felt about actions taken by those in authority. I also realize that past choices have been made that have created our poor financial environment today. But rather than dwell on them, we must make the best decisions possible and move forward. This College is larger than any one group or individual and we all must take actions that benefit the long term needs of the college. As an individual, I have been sympathetic towards employee needs throughout my tenure on the board and believe in the employer-employee negotiations process. I believe in organized representation, but more than that, I am pro-Imperial Valley College. My choices, and our board's decisions cannot be taken to benefit specific people or constituencies.

Thus, we are faced with either reducing expenses or jeopardizing our college accreditation. I refer you to the report from the administrative law judge regarding the recent fact-finding panel report. If you have not yet had a chance to read it, here is the link to the full report.

<http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/caiccd/Board.nsf/Public>

We simply do not have any choice but to adjust our expenses to fit our available income.

This is going to be a difficult 2014-15 fiscal year and as we go forward the Board's highest priority must be a balanced budget that meets our ongoing revenue to pay our outgoing expenses. IVC's survival depends upon it. While all of us understand the need to approve a balanced budget, we also understand the staff and public's right to question the Board's decisions in achieving this goal. I personally believe the least desirable choice is employee layoffs.

The Board faced a very difficult decision at its August 28th meeting in recommending additional permanent reductions. This decision has been heartfelt by all of us. Now is the time for all of us to pull together and leave animosity behind us. Let's move forward together as a college community and focus on providing a positive educational environment for our students, staff, and the public.

Sincerely,

Karla A. Sigmond