



June 27, 2014

Dean Murakami, President  
FACCC Board of Governors  
1823 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

***Re: FACCC Political Action Committee (FACCC PAC) Annual Report***

Dear Dean,

On behalf of the FACCC PAC, I am pleased to present our fifteenth annual report to the Board of Governors. Since minutes of the FACCC PAC are not part of the board's record, the PAC has promised to keep the board regularly updated on its activities through oral presentations at meetings and an annual written report.

It has been a tremendous pleasure serving on this committee with my colleagues, Mario Martinez, Sabrina Santiago, Evan Adelson, John McDowell, Joel Blank, Christopher Halligan, and Nancy Bednar. Earlier this year Steven Bennett and Cynthia Alexander also participated with us, but regrettably had to resign for personal and professional reasons.

We were also honored to have you serve as our executive committee liaison. As a past FACCC PAC chair and current president of the Los Rios College Federation of Teachers, your participation in the discussions was very meaningful.

Our decisions appropriately reflected the political diversity of the membership. Most importantly, all of our work conformed to the bylaws established by your board for our committee. We are grateful to the Board of Governors for its confidence in our work. Thank you for empowering us to perform this important responsibility.

Sincerely,

Meredith Heiser, Chair  
FACCC PAC

*cc: FACCC Board of Governors*  
*Enclosure*

**Faculty Association of California Community Colleges  
Political Action Committee  
Annual Report**

The following pages illustrate how FACCC PAC made a positive difference for the association on behalf of the California community college faculty.

***June 2014 Primary Elections***

FACCC PAC's work this year was primarily geared toward meeting with candidates for open seats in the June primary elections. Committee members diligently interviewed candidates in 20 districts with some races having upwards of eight candidates. With the advent of the top-two system of elections – where the top two vote getters regardless of party affiliation – advance to the November campaign, the FACCC PAC had to be strategic in terms of its endorsements and money in the June primary.

Including endorsements of incumbent legislators, FACCC PAC scored an impressive 98% victory rating in Assembly endorsements and a perfect 100% for the Senate.

In March, the FACCC PAC met at the Advocacy & Policy Conference to devise an endorsement strategy for the elections. Instead of spreading small contributions among many candidates, the PAC decided to target resources in two categories: a) emerging champions for the FACCC legislative agenda; b) candidates running against an opponent of FACCC's legislative agenda.<sup>1</sup>

Chief among the candidates considered “Emerging Champions” were Evan Low (Cupertino) and Miguel Santiago (Los Angeles). As a deputy aide to outgoing Assemblymember (and FACCC member) Paul Fong, Evan Low is deeply committed to the Foothill De Anza Community College District, his alma mater, and has worked hard to cultivate the faculty at the local and state levels. He attended FACCC's Policy Forum in January along with Assemblymember Fong.

An aide to former Assembly Speaker John Pérez, Santiago was appointed in 2008 to the Los Angeles Community College Board, elected in 2009 and re-elected in 2011 with overwhelming voter support. He was elected President of the Board in July 2011. Along with his colleagues, he led the effort to pass Measure J, a \$3.5 billion bond aimed at building and renovating the district's nine colleges. Like Low, Santiago has worked diligently to cultivate faculty at the local and state levels.

Kansen Chu, Tim Sbranti, and Dan Wolk were three candidates running against those considered potentially unfriendly to FACCC's legislative agenda with Chu and Sbranti emerging victorious in the June primary. Dan Wolk narrowly lost his election in a crowded race which will now feature a Republican and a Democrat who recently switched his party affiliation from the GOP.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Since most candidates were Democrats, the major point of controversy was CalSTRS. Sadly, there is a growing cadre of Democrats that are uncommitted to a healthy Defined Benefit retirement for public employees.

<sup>2</sup> Political consultants believe the district lines were drawn unfairly, connecting liberal Davis to conservative Napa.

## ***Endorsement Criteria and Candidate Questionnaire***

At the end of every election cycle, FACCC PAC reviews its candidate endorsement criteria and questionnaires, updating them as appropriate. FACCC PAC updated prior to the endorsement process, assuring the highest ethics in the endorsement process.

## ***FACCC Conference***

The FACCC PAC has traditionally hosted a fund raising event in conjunction with the Annual Conference.<sup>3</sup> Since the annual FACCC conference is now focused on advocacy and policy, FACCC PAC's signature event is a breakfast during the conference which also raises money for the FACCC PAC legislative honoree. This year's selection was Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva (D – Fullerton) who won a surprising victory in a traditionally Republican seat.

This year's fund raising appeal was presented by Nicky González Yuen. While less successful than years past, his message of utilizing politics as a means to supporting students was heartfelt.

Chancellor Brice Harris joined for the FACCC PAC breakfast, as did FACCC's Legislator of the Year, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D – Berkeley) and FACCC's Freshman Legislator of the Year, Jimmy Gomez (D – Los Angeles). It proved an excellent start to the rest of the day which focused on lobbying and advocacy.

## ***Fiscal Review***

While FACCC PAC did not conduct a fiscal review this year, it made fiscal administrative changes to its bookkeeping practices consistent with the findings of last year's review. This was discussed and approved by the committee. FACCC PAC budgeted one-third of the money for the fiscal review to occur in two years, minimizing the fiscal impact on the PAC at that time.

## ***State Political Conventions***

FACCC PAC held successful receptions at the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles and Republican Convention in Millbrae. As the only community college organization with an organized reception at both conventions, the FACCC PAC positioned itself as a central address for politics in the community college world.

Consistent with prior experience, there was significantly more foot traffic by delegates, candidate, and elected officials at the Democratic Convention over the Republican. For the first time, the Republican Convention offered 6:00 pm as an alternative to its traditional 9:00 pm start time.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> In the old FACCC annual conference, FACCC PAC had sponsored such fund raisers as *Jeopardy!* games and golf tournaments.

<sup>4</sup> The Democrats begin at 10:00 pm.

FACCC hosted a dinner for faculty leaders prior to the Democratic Convention and following the Republican Convention. These dinners allowed faculty leaders an opportunity to socialize out of the political spotlight.

### ***FACCC PAC Web Page***

While FACCC PAC did not make significant changes to its web page this year, it is preparing for the launch of the new site.<sup>5</sup>

### ***Extension of Contract with Legal Counsel/Treasurer***

FACCC PAC has extended its contract with attorney Wayne Ordos to handle all Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) reporting duties to the Secretary of State. Consistent with the FACCC PAC bylaws, Ordos serves as the official Treasurer for the committee. Mr. Ordos is the former Executive Director of the FPPC and specializes in political reporting law.

### ***FACCC PAC Officers***

In June, the FACCC PAC elected the following committee officers for 2014-15:

Chair: Evan Adelson (San Diego Mesa College)

Vice Chair: Christopher Halligan (Compton Center; El Camino College)

Secretary/Fiscal Officer: Mario Martinez (Santa Monica College)

### ***Future Activities***

This year, the FACCC PAC emphasized the need to begin an aggressive fund raising campaign, particularly in the contract districts. Aside from the November election, we will likely devote the majority of attention next year to this endeavor.

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<sup>5</sup> Anticipated July.