

Governing Board of The Peralta Colleges Resolution

Resolution to promote a Paperless Society within The Peralta Colleges

Whereas, it is recognized that the homo sapiens aboard the planet earth are consuming our forests at an accelerating and alarming rate that has, and will continue to have, a deleterious effect upon our atmospheric climate and air quality that is equal to or exceeding the more infamous “carbon footprint” syndrome.

Whereas, it is further recognized that paper printed communications have become a significant factor in the consumption of our timberland.

Whereas, it is further recognized that there is a tremendous cost associated with the printing, transmission, storage and ultimate disposal of printed materials that far outweigh the associated benefits to society as a whole and to The Peralta Colleges in particular.

Whereas, it is further recognized that the adverse impact upon personnel staffing necessary to print, transmit, control, account for, store, retrieve and ultimately dispose of printed paper products is a tremendous drain on our allocation of very scarce resources.

Whereas, it is further recognized that printed material transmitted to and received by all elements of The Peralta Colleges is measured in feet per week per employee, most of which is never read and virtually zero is subject to human recall ninety-six hours after receipt.

Whereas, it is further recognized that there is a “Linus’ blanket” affliction (from the character in the Peanuts cartoon series) that associates the feel of the touch and with an increased sense of security.

Whereas, it is further recognized that we can no longer afford the personnel staffing within The Peralta Colleges that accomplish little more than pushing paper around.

It is further recognized that The Peralta Colleges have invested an enormous amount of taxpayer dollars into information technology and the financial return on that investment has been very meager, if at all. In fact, a thesis could be put forth and successfully defended that our administrative costs have ballooned because of computer based information systems and that we have experienced a negative financial return on investment (ROI). This must change and the time is now. We are experiencing a dramatic reduction in revenues and the resources that we allocate to the administrative process must be significantly reduced to remain in compliance with the 50% law.

It is further recognized that the compilation, transmission, consumption, storage and disposal by electronic means is dramatically more expeditious, effective, efficient and controllable when compared to the printed method of communication.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Governing Board and the entire management and administrative staff of The Peralta Colleges will assume a leadership role by establishing measureable goals in our Strategic Planning process to progressively reduce the consumption of printed material by 90% within the next twenty-four months.

Be it further resolved, that the District Academic Senate be strongly encouraged to assume a leadership role to foster a new culture among our students such that they will not only blend into the changing and evolving methodology of corporate America, but become strong advocates and a vehicle for change in the pursuit of a "paperless society". We are, in fact, called upon to be the stewards of our environment. We must continue to make the mental and emotional changes in our behavior that justifies the use of that title.

Elihu M. Harris, Chancellor
Secretary, Governing Board
THE PERALTA COLLEGES