

YOU can help save California
from the endless downward spiral
of budget gridlock and crumbling public services
by restoring majority rule!

Campaign with Company

as we take the California Democracy Act petitions into the community



Saturday morning, February 13, 10 am
At the East Bay Gray Panthers office
1403 Addison St., Berkeleyh
(Behind University Ave. Andronico's)

Help spread the message!

In two hours you'll help us meet our huge Northern California goal for signatures.

- Warm-up refreshments at 10
- Brief 10:15 training on gathering signatures on a petition to put the California Democracy Act on the ballot
- Then forming two- or three-person teams to gather signatures at farmers' markets and shopping areas

We can do it!

We can replace the current undemocratic rule requiring that budgets and revenue measures need a two-thirds vote to pass.

We can fix it with a one-sentence ballot initiative, the California Democracy Act:

"All legislative actions on revenue and budget must be determined by a majority vote"



It's fun! It's easy! It's encouraging!

Early signature-gatherers report that many people are positive, even grateful for the chance to get California on track to a more democratic and positive future.

Board of Trustees, Chancellor, College Presidents, other district administration, Fellow students, staff and esteemed faculty. I stand before you at this point in the evening not as student trustee Yvonne Thompson, however as student Yvonne Thompson, who has been attending classes at one or more Peralta Campuses since 2004. In 2004 when I first stepped on the campus of Laney College to attend the certificated culinary arts program, in my mind it was temporary. It was just to sharpen my skills, get certification in something at the time I had been doing for 25 years.

I saw no evidence of a student government presence on campus, nor was I seeking one. I had no idea of a student trustee position or the board for that matter.

In the Fall of 2005, I was by the then President Melvin Haywood would I consider being a senator on student government.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2006, I was encouraged by AS President Haywood and out going AS Secretary Marlene Hurd to run for Secretary, as she was running for Student Trustee.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2007, I was encouraged again by AS President Haywood and Student Trustee Marlene Hurd to run for ASLC President. I committed hard, I ran hard, I campaigned hard, and I won.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2008, I was encouraged by outgoing Student Trustee Hurd, student leaders from all four campuses, faculty, staff, and administrators to run for student trustee. At first I was the only person to declare, then another person stepped up and because we were the only two we won.

In the Spring of 2009, no one stepped up, I won by default which I felt really bad about.

Contra Costa Community College District has now decided to change the limits to 1 year.

In the fall of 2009 when we attended the CBC Annual Legislative Conference, there were students for one reason or another who asked would I be running again, at that time I told them no because there is a term limit, student trustees can only run twice. They encouraged me to find out if it could be changed. At first I didn't take it seriously, however when the petitions started, and I started getting phone calls, I felt that it may be something to this. So I started to do research into other districts. One of the districts closest to us had no term limits for the student trustees up until this year. In fact my college e-mailed me to let me know that the Board of Trustees for the

In other Districts no policy regarding term limits are listed, and when I called to talk with the student trustee it is at the board's discretion what privileges from year to year that the student trustee will have .

I like other former Student Trustees had never thought about the term limit issue until it was bought up. I believe that everyone has a right to their own opinions. After looking at the term limit issues across the board and not only with Student Government, however in the government that affects our daily lives this is what I have found:

- The U.S. President has limits to how many terms in which they can serve
- The Governor has limits as to how many terms in which they can serve
- However there have been members of Congress and the Senate who have served consecutively for many years.
- There are no limits as to how many terms a Board of Trustee member can serve, and I believe that the Student Trustees fall within the policy of the Board of Trustees.

When I took this issue on, I didn't taken on specifically for me although there are items that I would like to see to completion such as:

- Institutionalize the Student Trustee replacement policy
- Continuity in the student governments, as it stands we have one student election code that the district has sent out, however we have some campuses that are on the same page when it come to club chartering, meetings, finances, and agendas.
- The Student Coalition

Whatever the choice is made by the Board of Trustees, I believe that it will be the right one. I do know that if it doesn't pass tonight, it will come back.

2/9/2010

Letter to Board

As a former Student Trustee, I encourage you to vote against Agenda Item #8 – Approval of Board Policy 1.02 Student Trustee.

First and foremost, the agenda for the Board Student Services Committee meeting at which this was expeditiously proposed and approved was not sent out in accordance with the Brown Act. It was sent out two days prior (Feb. 3 at 2:03 p.m.), failing to meet the 72-hour requirement.

Additionally, it would seem that a policy such as this would go through the Policy Review Committee, and be read multiple times prior to approval, as has been a past practice.

This procedural flaw also illustrates the hasty manner in which you are considering this. The agenda item title is misleading, and the average person might not understand what the item is about. I sincerely doubt that this has been formally shared with the various student body associations for their input.

 As a two-term Student Trustee, I will proudly testify that it was an amazing learning experience. Our second year, students encouraged us to run again. We'd jokingly say, "We've been termed out," but more importantly, we were making way for other students to have the opportunity and experience.

An incumbent Student Trustee running for office has the same advantage as publicly elected trustees; name recognition. This is unfair to other students seeking the experience. It also discourages those in office to engage other students and give them the opportunity, effecting preventing other students from running.

 Theoretically, community colleges are two-year institutions, yet, you are effectively allowing students to be in office for a period of beyond that in which we should be completing our education. Not to mention, that the average student trustee has worked their way up the Student government ranks prior to being elected to that post.

As we approach the President's Day weekend, we remember George Washington, this nation's founding Father who refused to run for a third term as President of the United States, or to become "President for Life." This customary policy eventually became the 22nd Amendment.

And if you truly want to encourage civic engagement at the highest level of democracy in the Peralta Colleges, you would support policies such as allowing students to be able to make and second motions, and would adopt a policy for the replacement, resignation and recall of Student Trustees. Instead, you are considering a policy that would allow a student to become a "Student Trustee for Life" dictator.

Reginald James