

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7, 2010
PCCD Board of Trustee Meeting
Associated Students College of Alameda Report

Good evening, my name is Jean Washburn. I am the President of the Associated Students College of Alameda, and I am here to submit our bi-monthly report to the board of trustees.

On Tuesday the 8th, College of Alameda had its second Black History month celebration with a candid look at mental health and violence in the Black Community. I would like to especially thank the students who shared their educational and moving stories with us during the panel session.

Next week, will be the culminating event for C.O.A.'s Black History month, with a panel discussion by Administrators, Faculty and Alumni about the moments in their life where they "Believed, Achieved and Succeeded."

The Associated Students of College of Alameda's Elections Committee has begun recruiting the next batch of Senators and Officers, and preparing for our upcoming general election. We already have some interested applicants, and we are looking forward to getting our student population out to the polls on Election Day.

I would like to congratulate our Men's Basketball team for making it to the regional play offs. Go Cougars!

Lastly, I would like to express the unease some students feel over the closed session item of Public Employee Appointments. I understand that the budget situation has this District in a bind, and I know that next year could be much worse than it is today if the state doesn't pass the tax extension proposal – we will all feel that pain. Together, we need to look at this situation with a steady heart and an open mind in order to find a solution.

However, this item smacks of panic. If the worse came to pass, my fellow students would no longer have the one thing that we really need to succeed – information. The positions that would be cut are the positions of people whose job it is to give us the information and resources to remain students. Can a college run without these crucial liaisons between system and us?

When the position of Activities Adviser was cut from C.O.A, the AS lost an important resource and we have been hobbling along ever since. We had to make due with the few scraps of time that our Dean of Student Services could afford us between his other important duties, and that simply wasn't the time we needed. We have done our very best in representing the students, but without information it is nearly impossible for us to do our jobs.

If that is the effect of one position cut, a position that gave the AS the information we need to do our jobs, just imagine what will happen if all of these other positions are cut. Will students be able to be students if they have no support?

I'm not going to tell the administration of this District to not to trim the budget; we all know that it is a tragic necessity given the current state of affairs. I merely ask that you consider the consequences before you cut.

Thank you.