

# GOING ADJUNCT

October 2009



Every advance in this half-century: Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education...one after another- came with the support and leadership of American Labor.

—Jimmy Carter

Yuba College American Federation of Teachers, Local 4952

Fall 2009, Issue 1

## BUDGET UPDATE by Mary Benson

There was a meeting on Tuesday, June 9 of the Yuba College Council Budget Group; they represent Yuba College (Marysville, Beale & Lake campuses, but not Woodland). There are three groups-the District Budget Group for the District headquarters, the Yuba College Council Budget Group, and the Woodland Budget Group. There were several full time faculty members present at the 2 ½ hour meeting; it was an opportunity for the administration to tell us what they were doing.

The Academic Senate has talked of the possibility of no summer school summer of 2010. Among other options is a delayed start, or reduced class offerings for

Summer 2010. At this point, all options are being considered, and once the State budget and Federal backfill gets clarified, we will know more.

Fees were raised to \$26/unit. This issue was out of the jurisdiction of the college, because the fees are set by the State Legislature. Even though the fees were raised, the college does not get any more revenue; it simply means that the State might not cut back as much in other areas. The UCs and the state universities have already cut enrollments and raised fees.

The State Legislature is looking at mandating some cuts in physical education. Apparently, one of our

legislators took a golfing course at the local community college and felt that physical education courses could be moved into community education (and participants would pay a higher



*"Even though the fees were raised, the college does not get any more revenue."*

price for these).

For the academic year '09/'10, the District has already cut over the past three years 15 FTEF (continue pp 2)

## AFT MEMBERS RALLY FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM

More than 120 AFT members from across the country visited their U.S. senators and representatives in Washington, D.C., on July 14 to share their stories and make the case for comprehensive healthcare reform.

The lobby day took place during the AFT's QuEST conference. As a morning plenary session ended, AFT president Randi Weingarten and the packed hall of conference attendees sent

their colleagues off to the Hill with the chant of "Healthcare now!"

Healthcare and healthcare reform are a top priority for the Obama administration, Weingarten said. "Groups that battled healthcare reform in the past are seemingly working together to find a cure for our healthcare system. Hopefully, a breakthrough is possible." (continue pp 2)



Photo by: Michael Campbell

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## REMEMBERING DAVE ALTHAUSEN

(Feb 1937-May 2009)

My first impression of Dave was that he was gruff and grouchy. Over time I learned that facade masked his deep concern for our members and his commitment to serve them. He took his duties seriously. I came to respect that seriousness and admire Dave for the good man he was. **J. Batchelder**

Dave had a remarkable memory and was very patient teaching new board members how the executive board operates. I admired him greatly. **M. Benson**

My memory of and association with Dave goes back 35+ years to when he was an officer/detective with Woodland PD. He was my instructor when I needed a Law Enforcement 832 class. Most recently he was my colleague, as I worked with Dave as an instructor at WCC and as a campus representative with the union. He seems to have been a common thread through my life and my life is richer for him. **B. Cassel**

## BUDGET *(continued from page 1)*

(full time equivalent faculty). One FTEF is five 3-unit courses per semester. This translates to 75 sections already cut over these past three years. The district has a \$45 million budget; 85% of that is salaries and benefits, which means that major reductions cannot be made without personnel and compensation cuts. Categorical programs are being hit the hardest with very large cuts (disabled students, etc.) by the State.

The District wants to

maintain a 5% reserve at the end of the 2009/2010 academic year. Each college is responsible for its own budget. There will be no across-the-board cuts directed cuts only. There is no hiring freeze as such, but the Chancellor's Executive Committee will decide on all hiring, and has already decided they will not fill any of the 10 full time faculty vacancies, which save the District \$1.2 million/year. They want to save almost \$5 million through the combination of directed cuts. On the other hand, the

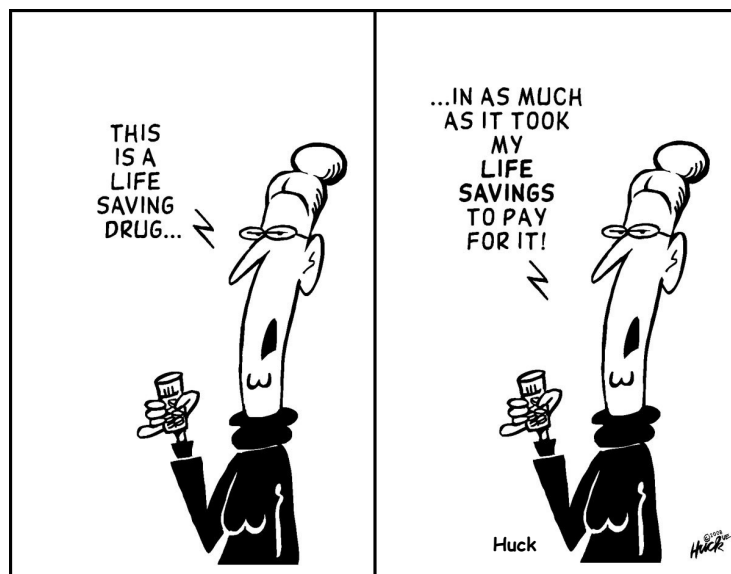
the Chancellor's Executive Committee is looking to fill approximately 6 administrative positions. Three are replacements, (President of Yuba College, Math Deans) and three are new administrative positions. The Chancellor's Executive Committee feels these new administrative positions are required to achieve accreditation. Cuts were made to the number of sections that were offered this summer. Yuba College is looking at cutting *(continue page 3)*

## HEALTHCARE *(continued from page 1)*

Weingarten introduced a video featuring healthcare and public employee members who detailed the devastation they see daily in the healthcare system and its effect on patients.

As the video ended, Weingarten invited the member lobbyists to come up on stage before they left for their scheduled visits to the Capitol. "Our members are our best, and sometimes secret weapon," Weingarten told them. "You provide a voice for members and for those who can't speak for themselves."

Jeff Carr of the Taos (N.M.) Federation of United School Employees, one of the AFT member-lobbyists, believes that the window to achieve reform is narrow. "We need to get healthcare



reform done now," Carr said. "If we don't get this done soon, it will be harder in the next session."

In tandem with the in-person lobbying, the AFT held a "virtual" lobby day. AFT activists nationwide called and wrote to their

U.S. senators urging them to support comprehensive healthcare reform. The effort generated more than 400 phone calls and more than 1,200 e-mails. A similar healthcare virtual lobby day in June produced 1,400 calls and 3,300 e-mails.

## BUDGET *(continued from page 1)*

faculty equivalents for Fall 2009, an additional five full time faculty equivalents for Fall 2009, cancelling an additional 25 sections that are already in the catalog and have current enrollment. Some of these cuts will be at Beale, 3-5 of the section cuts will be at the Clear Lake campus, and the rest on the main campus. This will affect part time faculty. There is nothing we can do as a union to change this. The District has the right to cancel our section even the day before the class begins and owe the

part time faculty nothing. Once the class begins, the District has to pay the faculty for the time actually spent in class if the section is cut once the semester begins. The District receives from the State a set amount of money for Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES); the State has capped the FTES they will pay for. If the District goes over that capped amount, they provide these services with no additional compensation from the State. The issue of the FTES Cap is still up in the air: it has been frozen; the State may

retain the existing cap and reduce the amount per FTES, or retain the same amount per FTES and reduce the cap. If that happens, Sections will be cancelled accordingly. The latest State of California budget projections, as of June 24, 2009, includes a 6% reduction in Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) and cuts for part-time faculty. The projections for YCCD include a reduction of \$236,000 for us with a Federal backfill of \$113,000. It looks like we will have fewer courses and fewer part time instructors in our future.

## WHAT ARE MY RETURN RIGHTS?

To get familiar with the YC-AFT Constitution, we will bring you an excerpt in each newsletter. To see the constitution in its entirety you can go online to [http://www.yccd.edu/hr/view\\_contract.php?id=3](http://www.yccd.edu/hr/view_contract.php?id=3).

For this issue we present return rights, articles 4.1 through 4.1.4: 4.1.5 Adjunct Faculty Member Return Rights.

4.1.5.1 Within the schedule of classes as determined by the college, adjunct faculty who teach:

4.1.5.1.1 General Education courses;

4.1.5.1.2 who have been teaching at the college site for three (3) of the last six (6) semesters,

4.1.5.3 shall have rights to continue teaching a load equal to the highest load taught in the past two (2) of three (3) semesters up to a maximum load of six (6) semester units. (Refer to Section 4.1 above.)

4.1.5.4 Courses taught during summer session shall not be counted in determining an adjunct faculty member's load. Intersession is considered a part of spring load.

4.1.5.5 The return rights set forth in Sections 4.1.2.1 through 4.1.2.4 above are to a load that the adjunct faculty member has taught in three (3) of the last six (6) semesters, and the adjunct faculty member has received a satisfactory evaluation. Adjunct faculty who receive

an unsatisfactory evaluation shall lose return rights.

4.1.5.5.1 Counselors and Librarians shall have the same return rights as instructors.

If you have lost units and would like us to look at a possible violation of the contract under the return rights provision, please contact your campus rep or any of the Executive Board and we will look at the issue for you.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Yuba District Adjunct Faculty,

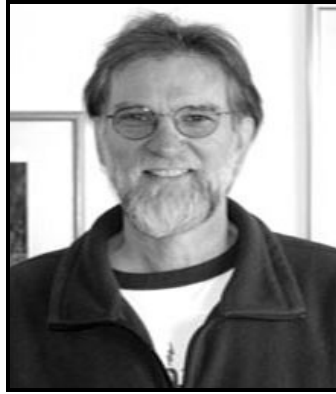
Any hope of a state budget resolution by this time has proven false, and the only optimism I read is that everyone involved knows that some resolution must come soon. It's just that no one knows what it will be. Prospects for community colleges have varied from *not bad* to *catastrophic*. But more on this in other parts of this newsletter.

I want to communicate to you a sense of admiration and loss that cannot be adequately expressed in words. Dave Althausen, Vice President of YCAFT for longer than I have been involved, passed away in May this year.

Dave had been an Administration of Justice instructor at Woodland for many, many years. He rose to the challenge of organizing adjunct faculty when across the board cuts in compensation took place before there was a bargaining agent for adjunct faculty.

He fought to bring union representation to part-time faculty and was in the forefront of the effort to restore lost compensation, gain other rights through contractual negotiations, and achieve ongoing improvements in compensation and working conditions. He consistently and effectively advocated the interests of all bargaining unit members, whether members of YCAFT or not.

Dave was not naturally a union sympathizer. I heard him say that often. When he saw that union representation was the only way to make progress, he worked as hard as anyone to fulfill the union's mission. The progress that is attributable to his efforts is being realized by all bargaining unit members every hour of every day of employ-



ment with the district. It is telling that Dave was not only admired by faculty, but also highly respected by administration in the district. Our loss is huge.

Most of the members of the Executive Committee were fortunate to visit briefly with Dave shortly before he died. We presented him with a plaque expressing admiration and appreciation on behalf of adjunct faculty of the district.

I found it powerfully moving and am so glad we were able to do so. We have seen one of our founders and elders move on. Part of our institutional memory is gone. But the challenge is clear.

We can best honor Dave by continuing the work in the interests of adjunct faculty. We must never forget his commitment and effectiveness. Our hearts go out to his family and friends. Dave is admired and missed.

In solidarity.

Douglas M. Harris, MSW

## LUNCH IS ON US!

Join the YC-AFT Board for lunch and find out what issues we are currently working on. If you are interested, contact Mary Benson for dates and locations at

daymortgage@hotmail.com

Going Adjunct is published by:

AFT Local 4952

PO Box 2001

Marysville, CA 95901

### President

Doug Harris, dmharris12@gmail.com

### Vice President

Jim Schulte, jschulte\_611@hotmail.com

### Treasurer/Secretary

Jay Batchelder, abatchel@yccd.edu

### Grievance Officer/Academic Senator

Jim Kitchen, j.kitchen@sbcglobal.net

### Membership Chair

Mary Benson, daymortgage@hotmail.com

### Campus Representatives:

#### Yuba College

Heidi Walker, thwalker@succeed.net

Elaine Robinson, thelaneyr@yahoo.com

Julia Green, jgreen@yccd.edu

#### Woodland Community College

Bob Cassel, robert.cassel@pacbell.net

Jodi Azulai, j.azul@sbcglobal.net

#### Clear Lake Campus

Mary Benson, daymortgage@hotmail.com

