

Exempts' Concessions Fully Restored

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Dr. Jensen has restored all concessions made by exempt administrators and exempt staff during the College's budget crisis. This is in addition to the fact that Dr. Jensen himself was the only full-time HFC employee to make NO sacrifices to save the College. In fact, he received salary raises during that period.

Dr. Jensen will argue that he took a pay cut to come to HFC. In fact, Dr. Jensen was unemployed when he came to the College. He was given \$500,000 to leave his only previous College position – prior to the expiration of his contract. This pay-out was negotiated by the Chair of the Rocky Mountain College – who was also his personal banker.

The Federation does NOT begrudge the exempt employees in question being made whole. However, even after the next five years, Local 1650 members' concessions will not be fully restored.

The Administration has arbitrarily limited its exempt restoration of compensation to longevity, step, and annuity losses. It refuses to recognize that the Local 1650 contract provided assured income, which

was sacrificed to save the College. Moreover, in opening the contract to help save the College, Local 1650 was hit by the State Republican "hard cap" insurance premium shift two years earlier than the law required. "No good turn...."

Dr. Jensen has never retracted his widely publicized, unfounded, and divisive claim that 1650 members gained income during the College's budget crisis. It is clear now that the only full-time employee group to have made no sacrifices to save the College are exempt administrators and staff – and the only full-time employee to gain income during the budget crisis was Dr. Jensen!

Again, the Federation does NOT object to "exempts" being made whole, but so too should 1650 members, other full-time HFC employees, taxpayers, and students – whose sacrifices continue.

Local 1650 does object to Dr. Jensen's failure to lead by example.

John McDonald

Dr. Jensen Critiques Sanctuary College Proposal

The Federation submitted its proposal to the Trustees' regarding the designation of HFC as a "Sanctuary College" with the hope that the College and Trustees would discuss this with the Federation after further input from students and the community – and prior to any public critique of the proposal – since the Trustees will ultimately define what the term means at HFC.

At the January Board of Trustees' meeting, Dr. Jensen, Ms. Copprue, and one of her staff critiqued the Federation's request virtually line by line. This formal response was not cited as an agenda item on the Board agenda, and it came at the very end of the Trustees' meeting. Moreover, the administration did not exercise the basic courtesy of alerting the Federation to its planned, public critique by phone.

Board of Trustees' President Ms. Mariam Bazzi, has graciously and unnecessarily taken "full responsibility" for the premature and public critique of the Federation's request. However, she simply requested of Dr. Jensen a report on what the College is doing in this area. Such a report did not require any premature and public critique of the Federation's request. It only required commentary on what the College is doing!

Again, the Federation's purpose has been to introduce the subject of a "Sanctuary College" and garner additional input from students, staff, faculty, and the community. Since Dr. Jensen had already publicly conveyed his critique to the Board, what purpose did it serve to do so yet again in written form at a Federation Forum?

Dr. Jensen had already requested that a video of his critiquing the Federation's request be presented at the Federation Forum, since he would be busy teaching in Lansing. The Federation declined his request – but indicated that administrators could convey his views at a microphone. The Federation is confident that the Trustees have ready access to Dr. Jensen's views on this and other matters. In fact, it already had such at a public Board meeting prior to Dr. Jensen's printed critique at the Federation Forum.

So much for collegiality – or common courtesy – for that matter!

John McDonald

Sanctuary College Forum

The Federation's January 19 Forum regarding the Local's request that the Trustees designate HFC a "Sanctuary College" was well attended by students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

The purpose of the Forum was to gather input regarding the Federation's proposal – and permit students and community members to express their concerns regarding the inflammatory rhetoric and proposals espoused by President Trump during the presidential campaign.

The Federation's request included principles and policies which might define what HFC would mean by the term "Sanctuary College." The Federation awaits the Trustees' views on the use of the term and its views on the principles and policies that should be reconfirmed and/or adopted to reassure students and the community that HFC continues to be a safe and nurturing college.

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The Federation has repeatedly acknowledged that some of the principles and policies it suggested are in place at HFC. The Federation also believes that the tenor of the times calls for a re-commitment to those principle and policies and the consideration of possible additions to such – as well as specific, clear, and measurable outcomes that can be conveyed to students and the community.

During the Forum, many students expressed concern about the registry based upon religion proposed by the President. Many faculty expressed strong commitment to the term “Sanctuary College.” The term and what it will mean at HFC is in the hands of the Trustees.

Again, the Federation is not requesting that the College commit to any policy that would entail violations of the law.

Views and suggestions on HFC as a “Sanctuary College” should be forward to Ms. Mariam Bazzi, President, HFC Board of Trustees, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, MI 48128

John McDonald

1650 To Meet With Divisions

The Federation is in the process of meeting again this year with Divisions – immediately preceding or immediately following Division meetings. Area Reps have been asked to schedule such meetings.

In addition, Area Representatives will be meeting individually with each of their constituents each

semester. The purpose of such meetings is to listen to members’ concerns and/or suggestions, so that the Federation can better represent the membership. Please share 15-20 minutes with your Area Rep when contacted to schedule a visit.

AFT Higher Education Conference

This year, the AFT’s National Higher Education Conference will be held April 28-30, at the Motor City Casino, in Detroit.

The Conference typically provides plenary sessions and workshops focusing on current higher education issues – student access and success, technology, recent litigation, and the impact of state and federal legislation.

The Conference also provides the opportunity to

meet AFT’s Higher Education staff and interact with AFT President Randi Weingarten in a Q & A session. The Conference agenda and registration materials should be on Higher Education page of the AFT Website (www.aft.org) within two weeks.

Local 1650 will cover registration and mileage expenses for its members.

John McDonald