

Professor vs. Instructor

In Favor of Professor

- I'm in favor of this change.
- I like the idea of making this change to “professor” as it seems to carry more weight, especially when speaking to other educators. My concern has always been that I can't call myself professor unless I have the Doctoral degree. But if this isn't the case, then I vote for professor.
- I know I can't vote being an administrator, however, here are some reasons for support for this change to the various professor level name changes for instructors. Other community colleges in California use professor titles. To remain competitive (in recruiting new faculty), consistent with other community colleges in our state, and having titles that are more reflective of the work faculty do, I hope the faculty leadership considers this change.
- I like it.
- I'm in favor because I like the sound of 'Professor' ;-)
- I am strongly in support of the change of title to professor. By using the same title that's used by four-year schools, we would be a) drawing a closer relationship between community colleges and 4 year colleges (rather than the structural comparison between CC's and elementary education that is often made, b) socializing our students to the title they will be expected to call their professors upon transfer, c) capable of attracting more qualified candidates for faculty positions, and d) not demoting our faculty members who hold Ph.D.'s.
- I'm in favor of a title change from Instructor to Professor/similar. I'd be curious to hear the arguments against such a change, this type of title is fairly common at other CCs.
- I think this title change makes sense. This is how a number of other districts do it.
- It makes more sense when applying for grants. For example, [another faculty member] and I are applying for a National Science Foundation Grant and people were confused if we were full-time faculty (assuming we were adjunct instructors). Also, when I applied for my own job I didn't even realize it was for a tenure track position because all of the other community colleges I applied to in the area were using the Associate Professor title for tenure track positions. Since we are expected to do a lot more than just instruct, the current title doesn't reflect what we are actually doing here and I think it is confusing to people outside the college.

- I am okay with the faculty title change as proposed.
- I'm for the change! I've been an instructor for 30 years and I'm due for a promotion! Plus, all my students call me "professor" anyway (promoting me from just "[last name]").
There is a problem with the wording of the proposal it seems. The title of professor and associate professor are both assigned to full time tenure track faculty. I believe that the title of "associate professor" should be for full time tenure track faculty who have not yet received tenure, or other full-time faculty who are not tenured. While Professor should be the title for full time tenured faculty members.
Finally, for adjunct faculty, why not adjunct professor? or "part time adjunct professor?" But this isn't my call!
- I wanted to express my support for the proposed faculty title change to professor from instructor. I think this would be beneficial in several ways;
 - 1) it would mirror the titles at 4-year institutions so would better introduce our students to academic titles and ease transition after transfer
 - 2) it would make our roles clear to colleagues - I have noticed this particularly at conferences and workshops, as at other schools (2 and 4 year) the instructor title can indicate part-time or non-tenure track faculty.
 - 3) the title change would match that of titles at other community colleges in our region and nationally.
 Thank you for taking on this proposed change.
- I'm in favor of the title changes as proposed. On a related note, I've always thought the term "adjunct" is better than "part-time" because a lot of our so-called part time instructors are actually full time when all their teaching assignments at various colleges are added up. *Adjunct* seems a more accurate term, and "adjunct professor" would be my recommendation. Having said this, I recall that some years ago part-time faculty voted to be referred to as part-time instead of adjunct.
- I actually much prefer the term "professor" over instructor. If you teach at a college, you are a professor in my book. Instructor doesn't carry the same specificity. One has a surf instructor, not a surf professor.
- I don't know if you want my input outside of Academic Senate too, but I am strongly in favor of changing our current job title to professor. All those I have spoken to outside of Academic Senate have agreed so far, I hope that they respond to the email!
- I'm on board with the change, though I don't know a lot about any possible broader implications. I don't think students ever refer to us by titles such as "Instructor [last name]." To them we are professors.

- It really doesn't matter to me, but, quoting Webster:

one that professes, avows, or declares

a: a faculty member of the highest academic rank at an institution of higher education

b: a teacher at a university, college, or sometimes secondary school

c: one that teaches or professes special knowledge of an art, sport, or occupation requiring skill

Based on that, b and c would apply for sure. a would apply if a full-time tenured faculty member is the highest rank at LPC.

Again, I don't care, I just go based on facts.

- I agree with this proposed terminology change. I have had the experience that students coming to community college occasionally have difficulty with the change from how faculty should be addressed (in speech or writing) from what they are used to in high school (i.e., the formalities of using Prof. or Dr. instead of Mr. or Ms., unless otherwise requested by the faculty member).
Adopting the proposed terms (professor, associate professor, etc.) is in line with the terms used by 4-year institutions, and it seems to me that using the same terminology may help students realize that community college is ... college... and not high school part 2...
I know the terminology change probably will only *slowly* infiltrate student day-to-day language, but I think it's a good idea to start that process!
- Super duper in favor. :)
My zumba teacher is also called an instructor.... I am a professor with the experience and education to accompany the title I think.
- I support this change in address.
- I would like to support the adoption to *professor* for these reasons:
 1. It's gender neutral and sounds less robotic and odd than *instructor*. When I began to teach, I knew I did not want to be referred to by Miss or Mrs Something. So my friend suggested *professor*. It was perfect--respected my gender expression and was the expected title of the place where I work. From the view of people who don't fit neatly into a gender role, it's helpful.
 2. I also think it complements *classified professionals*.
 3. It makes students and me feel collegiate to use the title. Although mostly everyone calls me [by my name], it makes me feel like professing. And it marks difference from a previous school situation (high school, adult school) to the current one.

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 - I also think it complements *classified professionals*.
 - It makes students and me feel collegiate to use the title. Although mostly everyone calls me [first name] , it makes me feel like professing. And it marks difference from a previous school situation (high school, adult school) to the current one.

- Would the group consider bringing industry standard terminology such as:
 1. Professor -----Tenured- full time folks
 2. Assistant Professor-----Full time / tenure track folks
 3. Associate Professor----Part time non tenure track folks

- I would suggest the following:
 - Professor (full-time tenured faculty)
 - Associate Professor (full-time tenure track faculty)
 - Assistant Professor (Adjunct Faculty)

I am concerned where you describe a person by their employment status by calling them Part Time.

- Just wanted to let you know I am in full support of this proposed faculty title change. It is high time we should take a step like this.

- I'm all for the titles to be officially changed to Professor (tenured instructors), Associate Professor (tenure track) and Part-time Professor (part-timers).

Not in Favor of Professor

- The term professor applies to those at a University level who have a minimum of a Ph.D. and are on are tenured or on a tenure-track academic position. The scale is as follows:
 - Assistant Professor - Obtaining tenure
 - Associate Professor- Tenured
 - Full Professor - Tenured and recognized for significant contributions to their field

These positions include but not limited to:

 - Active Research
 - Peer reviewed publications
 - Oversight of graduate students
 - Grant writing

Attendance at national and international meetings in the field of research
Instruction

Community college instructors are just that, instructors. To include the term "professor" within the community college system would dilute the term. This in my view is an insult to academia. The term you should be using is Lecturer.

- I strongly do not prefer "professor," since what I do is "instruct," not "profess." I chose this line of work because it is teaching focused and I made a very conscious decision not to be a professor. I don't know what the problem is that the names of everyone's job titles need to be changed constantly, and while I recognize that words are important, I don't think issues of inequity or lack of respect will be solved with title changes.
- I have been a part-time instructor at LPC since 2007 and am also a staff member at CSU East Bay in educational effectiveness. The term professor has been frequently associated with a terminal degree and a tenure track position, so while I do not have a substantial objection, it seems like an incorrect use of the term. Perhaps a little more research could go into this before a final decision?

I am hopeful the term adjunct will no longer be used in education as one of the synonyms is "un-necessary."

Neutral

- I am happy with either the existing titles, or the proposed change. It doesn't really matter to me.
- I think part-time professor sounds ridiculous, and I would not have wanted to be called one when I was an adjunct. Standard academic ranks are Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor.
- I've always been fine with being described as an "instructor"—what would be the reason for the change? Is the title "professor" associated only with Ph.D. holders? Would it be misleading to call ourselves professors if we all have different degrees and other types of preparation? What is most common in the rest of the community colleges? What is the history of why "instructor" was "decided upon," though you say there are actually no official regulations?

Part of me feels that discussions like this are not worth a whole lot of time...we switched from "adjunct" to "part-time" a few years ago, for example, and very few people use the proper terminology. That being said, language and terminology is very important and has all sorts of implications socially and in terms of our identity.

Thanks as always for shepherding this conversation—