

## April 17, 2012 – Board Statement – Todd Steffan, Classified Senate President

I would like to give my report on Las Positas College Classified Senate activities and then follow my report with a statement to the board.

### Report:

Preparing for upcoming Senate elections. Already soliciting nominations for officer positions.

Flex day was a huge success. Had many comments stating that this was the best flex day ever.

Planning on sending one representative to 4CS Conference in Southern California.

### Statement of issues

As part of my responsibilities as a representative of the Las Positas Classified Senate, I am to address issues that will and are directly impacting our Classified Senate, such as budget cuts. I have always appreciated how our board has been supportive of our classified senate, but I have heard various comments made at various venues such as our Las Positas College Town Meeting that need to be addressed. I know many people at Chabot College, Las Positas College, and the District are extremely supportive and appreciative of the hard work our classified does each and every day. Many of these people are in this room. But nevertheless, there have been some very hurtful comments made by individuals who I hope do not represent the majority. We are in one of the most difficult times in the history of our district and we will need to pull together to get through it.

**The first comment we have heard is:** “We, the faculty are the engine of the college, we bring in the revenue.” Part of this is true: Without our faculty we do not have classes. ***But without Classified, the engine is without fuel and oil and therefore cannot run.***

Picture a day without classified:

No students are enrolled because admissions and records “classified” are not there

No first generation, financial need, Veterans, International, and many others, because there are no Financial Aid advisors, Veterans certifying officials, International students coordinators, EOPS advisors, and various other student services “classified.”

No one to open up the classes, because campus security “classified” is not there.

Trash cans full, restrooms not clean, class rooms dirty, no heat/ac in the rooms, no lights, because custodial “classified” is not there.

Computer problems and no Blackboard, because IT “classified” is not there.

No mail, no one to answer calls from parents and students, no one to let students know an instructor is sick because front desk assistants “classified” are not there.

The gym is not set up with chairs, basketballs, game tables, bleachers, because the athletic assistant “classified” is not there.

Grass over grown, weeds, trash, and a run-down campus, because Maintenance “classified” is not there.

No one to answer calls, set up classrooms, no assistance with arranging graduation and other events, because Admin assistant “classified” are not there.

No paycheck for teaching, because payroll “classified” is not there.

No schedule of classes is available because the scheduler “classified” is not there.

No new equipment has been ordered, because business assistants “classified” are not there.

No experiments have been set up for biology, chemistry, physics, etc. because the lab assistants “classified” are not there.

And this is just part of the effect of some of the classified not being there.

**The second issue is from the comment:**” We have taken our cuts and now non-instructional must take theirs.”

First, I have been at Las Positas College for over eight years, and each year I have seen more work taken on by individuals each year. Multiple positions have not been filled. Hourly support is non-existent. There has been growth of enrollment but no additional staff hired. I can’t recall when a classified position ranked number one, not to mention that many others by the Planning and Budget Committee have not been filled at Las Positas College. The few classified positions hired have been due to needed replacement fills, for individuals that have retired.

**Non-instructional staff members are not just numbers; We are classified, we have faces and we serve students. To make statements about putting the cuts on the non-instructional portion of the budget is, in my opinion, absurd. We are people, we have families, and these cuts will affect all our lives.**

**We are in a budget crisis. WE ALL ARE IN THIS. We all need to take responsibility and share the cuts together, not just put them all on “non-instructional.”**

**Once again, I want to thank the many of you in this room as well as others who have always supported our classified and know how important we are to the colleges and the district office.**

- Todd Steffan

- April 17, 2012