

Hey Cal Poly Humboldt!

Hope all y'all are well.

My report for this week is an invitation to a collaborative writing assignment. Briefly, I was recently talking to a colleague in an administrative role about our efforts to pursue policy that set guardrails to define and preserve expectations for democratic norms in anticipation of our incoming University President. The colleague suggested that in focusing on constraining the work of someone we have yet to meet, I was solely defining our parameters for their performance by what we didn't want them to do. While I remain committed to our slate of legislation underway, and have a wishlist for other things I would hope we can accomplish, I take their point.

They proposed that another tact we might consider, in tandem with our resolutions, is an open letter to the eventually hired president. She advised that we collaboratively write a sort of "vision statement" that describes who we are, who we aspire to be, and what kind of relationship we hope to foster and maintain with the person in their role.

To this end, I'd like to propose that we collaborate on a document that we would provide to the incoming president, through which we would help to describe a number of things about ourselves. For instance:

- What are our expectations in relation to shared governance?
- What are we excited about in relation to our polytechnic transition? What aspects of the change are still scary or discomfiting for us?
- How do we expect to be engaged in the budget processes/announced reductions underway? What does transparency regarding resource distribution look like to us?
- How can we collaboratively maintain and support a long history of activism on campus?

These are just a couple of the ideas we can cover and convey, and I am just one (deeply fallible) person, so please, help me to think about how we can greet and collaboratively guide our new colleague and leader.

We are heading into (and maybe already have arrived at) deeply weird times in higher education, and we need to develop a coalition of willing collaborators to protect and steward this educational space that means so much to so many.

jim