

Public Comments for the Palomar College Governing Board Meeting

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Elected officials and members of the community,

I attended the governing board retreat held on Friday the 28th of June. I am happy to report that I valued the event. And, I believe that the facilitator, Narcisa Polonia valued the presence of all attendees.

All attendees participated in an activity that emphasized the importance of not making assumptions about people.

By the conclusion of the retreat the board has a list of action items that included communication as well as organization and location of the board room. Narcisa offered her advice for advocates of diversity, Her exact words were, "I'd rather have someone who can relate to me than somebody who looks like me."

I would like to take a moment to talk about a discussion that occurred during the morning session. It focused on public comments that were made last month during the June 11th governing board meeting. There seemed to be some questions regarding whether or not the speaker, who is a faculty member, had spoken truthfully. The president stated that HR has looked into the incident referenced by the speaker and it was determined to be a nonissue. The president also stated that "something" could be provided to the board. I am assuming that this would be in the form of a report or an executive summary. However, it is possible that it could be some other form of communication.

Since the incident referenced by the speaker involved faculty members it is the PFF's responsibility to inquire about any complaints or documents that may impact faculty roles or rights. As a PFF grievance officer I contacted HR requesting all reports or analyses that may have been generated as a result of inconsistencies that occurred on any of the faculty hiring committees. Since there were no HR representatives present at the June 28th retreat HR was not aware of the discussion regarding the compliance officer's experience on a hiring committee, I was told that HR has not provided any analyses or reports regarding the matter.

I am sharing this with you because the PFF has no reason to believe that the faculty would intentionally speak untruths at public meetings. I am hopeful that any reports requested by trustees that directly or indirectly impact one or all faculty members be shared with us.

Thank you for listening.