

CCCFT General Membership Meeting

10/30/14 3:30 – 5:00 in CC3-103

20 members in attendance

1. David Shapiro (DS) called the meeting to order at 3:50 and began by giving an overview of the agenda items, introduced the Steering Committee, and some of the goals they have this year.
2. DS shared information about AFT's position on candidates and initiatives in the upcoming election and the members discussed some of the initiatives.
3. DS introduced an issue that has emerged with Cascadia Community College's recent name change, eliminating "Community" from the name. The question was raised as to whether CCCFT should or will have to do the same (possibly becoming CCFT). The members discussed the pros and cons of doing so, and noted if we didn't change the name that it would be sending a message to the administration, and that we should be mindful of this as well as purposeful if we do go down this road. It was also brought up that there may be a more uniform name change in the works from AFT (like AFT WA – Cascadia). DS will try to find out more information and get back to us. If we do have a choice, we may end having to vote on the change if it's up to us.
4. This issue and importance of being able to access local funds for raises was brought up, as was the question of who introduced this "local funds" legislation.

5. David Ortiz gave a report on the future of higher education based on a “Stakeholders” summit he attended on October 25th at Tacoma Community College. A key focus of the event was on student debt, and thinking about how to make higher education more affordable (even free) and part of the public good. Additionally, part of the event involved working with [Backbone](#) and it was suggested that this organization could help CCCFT in its efforts.
6. The discussion of student debt raised questions from members about faculty who have student debt and how that might be lessened or waived as a result of the [Personal Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).
7. The bargaining discussion process will begin in early February, and members are invited to provide more thinkings/strategies as it approaches.
8. The Steering Committee previously identified several issues related to negotiation (workload, tenure/post-tenure, pay & parity, climate, priority hire & associate faculty issues).
 - a. Members wondered if there are more than these categories.
 - b. It was pointed out that according to the union charter, CCCFT has dedicated committees to address these issues, so why not follow charter and create standing committees that members could serve on to help identify and address these issues.
 - c. DS will send out invitation for members to volunteer for committees.
 - d. A clarification was made that the categories are

not necessarily committees, and the members were asked if they could suggest other categories that might be missing.

- e. Professional Development was brought up, but it wasn't clear whether that belongs to workload or could be its own topic.
- f. Members were given post-its for people to fill out and place under categories.