

Good evening everyone. My name is Frankie Cocanour (She/her/hers); I'm the president of LCCEF.

I would like to say thank you to Mike Eyster for all of his years on the board and as the board chair. And I would congratulate Lisa Fragula on becoming the new board chair and Melanie Munzer as the co chair.

This is quite a year that we continue having and I would like to start off with a quote that has been very helpful to me over the last few months.

“Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that's good.”

— Elizabeth Edwards

LCCEF EC members have been working hard to do this during these COVID times, and in the BLM Movement. We have had the discussion among many of us asking if we had known that COVID would hit this year when we went to run last year would we have run? That answer has been a yes and a no depending on the day that you ask. And I imagine that if I was to ask all of you Board Members you might answer it the same way.

Still we push on, because no matter how difficult the times are we know that we have to keep moving forward and doing the work and making the hard decisions that our members who voted for us have tasked us with doing.

Currently we are still bargaining with the college. So far the discussions between the college have seemed very fruitful and both sides are doing their due diligence to come up with a great contract. We are still waiting for the college to act on the Comp and Class study results, which should have been done pre-Covid. We are hopeful.

We were given a copy of the Bias Incident Response Procedure by Greg Evans and we are excited to see that come to fruition soon here at the college.

Shortly after the BLM protests started LCCEF EC voted to begin a Diversity and Inclusion group for our union. We feel that it is important to our community that LCCEF takes a hard stance when it comes to racism and to bias. We pledge as an organization to work with our membership to look carefully within our local, and for ways that we must make changes so that all members, and the students we serve, feel safe and welcome.

One aspect of safety, in this time, is how we treat one another with regards to the impact of Covid-19. The recent work on a Reopening plan, though important to do, and though done with great care by all, must be seen in the light of whether any reopening at all is truly “safe” for any of us.

I would like to talk to you about Kimberley Chavez Lopez Byrd. Kimberly was a teacher that was sharing a classroom with three other teachers in Arizona all three teachers wore masks and gloves, used hand sanitizer and socially distanced, yet they all caught COVID and one of them, Kimberly died. In light of this we are very fearful for our students and employees on this campus.

Now we are receiving reports that president trump is wanting to cut the CDC out of the data loop. Once this happens we won't be getting accurate numbers about how many people in the United States are testing positive for COVID and dying from complications related to COVID. Our union is afraid that he will suppress the numbers to force our country to reopen knowing that it will be a death penalty for many of our students and employees. Has the Board had any discussions with State elected officials or health advisors in regards to Trump's plans and ways to keep ourselves safe?

I would also like to speak about the decision to suspend the CML. It's very worrisome and disappointing to see this happen. I hope that the board does everything they can to push the college to find job homes for all of the employees being affected, including those who will be bumped if CML employees are laid off. Right now there are people in Oregon that were laid off in March who have still not been paid their unemployment. We also have had some 1039 part time employees that are currently still having issues with the state paying their unemployment benefits, Shane Turner was very kind to assist with one former employee last week. Is it the right decision to add more employees into that pool and cause them any hardships If that could have been prevented?

In addition, all paychecks for Classified employees are currently "short" by two work days, with our furlough agreement we made with the college. It may be 6 weeks or longer, due to the Employment Division's backup, before employees receive their benefits or CARES Act payments, and some may be finding this a struggle. We did this with the college in order to help with the budget shortfall, and to prevent the need for layoffs.

The CML is an important center for the college and the community. LCCEF asks that the CML employees be held harmless in this matter. We especially ask that our Classified employees who currently work in the CML not be laid off, nor bump other employees elsewhere.

We understand that everything in our world is currently uncertain due to a pandemic. Our local community clearly trusts Lane as a leader in the community, or would not have passed a Bond measure during this time. Let's keep their faith.

Thank you and I wish you all a good evening.