

Statement on City College Class Cuts

The CCSF Chancellor's and Trustees' actions are against the wishes of San Franciscans, who support the Community College concept of classes to assist and enrich the lives of all residents, not the Junior College concept of only churning out productive workers. SF residents supported City College during the attempts to remove its accreditation and voted many times to fund CCSF as a Community College.

The CCSF Chancellor's and Trustees' actions have lost credibility with the San Francisco public. Examples: Claiming fiscal crises while seeking huge pay raises for administrators. Claiming fiscal crises while refusing to accept City money to restore classes. Claiming to expedite graduation for students of color while eliminating classes needed for students, largely of color, to graduate, on the evening before registration began. Claiming to honor and value faculty while summarily dismissing or taking away health benefits from over 100 of them, with no warning and after the expiration of an offer of a retirement incentive package.

The plan to contract out a small proportion of City College Older Adult classes to the Senior Centers exacerbates a disturbing trend of cuts and privatization of education and union-busting. It takes CCSF pay, benefits, and job protections from the teachers and it does nothing to restore most of the canceled classes or even most of the Older Adult classes.

We recognize that Senior Centers faced an emergency: loss of Federal nutrition funding if they had no nutrition classes. We also recognize that the use of Dignity Fund money for this outsourcing is on a one-time-only basis, but even after alternative funding is found, the outsourcing would remain permanent.

If the City is willing to embrace an emergency plan to save the Senior Center courses, why can it not embrace the emergency proposal of Supervisors Walton and others to restore all of the canceled classes, even if it is too late to give them this coming semester? Why is Mayor Breed saying "City College is having to make some tough choices to address ongoing structural financial issues," rather than supporting City College in this crisis?

As elders, we recognize many of the cancellations hurt younger students whose graduation plans are disrupted, and middle-age adults whose job-retraining programs are being cut. We stand in solidarity with them and demand ALL of the classes be restored. We all need to stick together and fight for a robust Community College in San Francisco.

In summary:

All canceled classes must be restored, per Supervisors Walton and others.

Classes, including those in the Older Adult Program, must be taught by as part of City College, with CCSF faculty, with CCSF contract pay, benefits, and job protections, regardless of where they are taught.

Classes taught in senior centers must be restored immediately, to avoid the risk of their losing federal nutrition funding, but immediate restoration must not come at the price of shattering the CCSF Older Adult program and removing CCSF job protections and union benefits from the teachers.

We condemn the continuing efforts of CCSF Chancellor, Trustees, and the California Community College Chancellor's Office and Board of Governors to strip away community benefit courses from Community Colleges and concentrate only on students seeking diplomas, vocational certificates, or transfers to 4-year colleges.