

# The **FACTS** of **FACCCCTS**

## An Anniversary Introduction to the History of the Journal

By Ryan Tripp

Seventy years ago, the California Junior College Faculty Association (CJCFA), composed primarily of full-time instructors, declared independence from its parent organization, the California Junior College Association (CJCA). The institutional rebellion resulted from junior college faculty failure to secure more representation in the CJCA, an association purportedly dominated by state and unified high school administrators. In 1960, California Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown approved the Donahue Act and Master Plan for Higher Education, legal blueprints for the respective roles of the University of California, California State University, and the California Community Colleges. The Master Plan also prompted CJCFA officers to publish a newsletter, the *Bulletin of the California Junior College Faculty Association*. But conflicts with the CJCA continued to plague the fledgling collective. During the next half-century, both the CJCFA and its Bulletin nevertheless transformed into the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and its flagship journal, *FACCCCTS*.

A January 1962 Bulletin headline story explained that "'Democratization' of the California Junior College Association was urged recently to counteract the growing CJCFA movement...the president of the College of San Mateo [Dr. Julio Bortolazzo] told delegates that the CJCA must give classroom teachers full voice in the organization's politics and program in order that it be truly representative." However, authors of the feature story pointed out that Bortolazzo, being both faculty

and an administrator, didn't clarify the differences between the Faculty Association and CJCA.

The CJCFA president followed the 1962 Bulletin cover stories with an invitation to Richard Milhous Nixon, a candidate for the gubernatorial Republican nomination who had denounced the incumbent governor as a communist. At the time, there was a narrative that many community college faculty had communist sympathies. Palmer asked Nixon to deliver an address to the CJCFA convocation at Glendale College. The editor of the Bulletin, John Dowden, published selections from the subsequent speech.

The Bulletin editor reproduced the Republican candidate's promises to demarcate secondary school administration from related, but distinct, junior college administration. Dowden reported that "Richard Nixon characterized the junior college as 'neither fish nor fowl,' caught between local school district controls and higher education plans. He suggested defining junior colleges' status and responsibilities in a new education code. The Bulletin editor believed that Nixon's leadership would be needed for the passage of this new code, but Nixon ultimately lost the election to the Democratic incumbent.

In June 1963, the California Legislature approved SB 604 and the fourth article, fifth chapter of the California Education Code, Division 18.5, authorizing separation of junior colleges from high school or unified school districts. More specifically, Concurrent Resolution 48 requested Bureau sponsorship of academic

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senatorial elections in each junior college. These senates represented faculty in policy administration and academic curricula. Yet the state government still classified junior colleges as "secondary schools" for the purposes of fiscal integration. John Palmer continued to serve as CJCFA corresponding secretary and Bulletin co-editor, alongside mainstay John Dowden.

In February 1963, CJCFA officers hired Sacramento City College alumnus and attorney Bill Smith to act as a CJCFA legislative advocate. CJCFA officers appointed Smith to his very own Bulletin column, the "Legislative Report." He reported on CJCFA-sponsored bills, proposals, and, in November 1964, a petition for "a single agency to coordinate junior college education." In the next issue, editors referred to this agency as a "state board of education for junior colleges" independent of the State Department of Education, first included in a petition for a law "permitting appointment of 15 members of a state board for junior colleges by the governor. Each member would be appointed for a term of eight years with two terms only. Two members would be appointed every two years on the basis of staggered terms."

In March 1966, Bill Smith warned readers that "in an election year there are many pitfalls which elected officials must avoid without creating unnecessary traps." That July, he asserted that "it would be well for the local CJCFA members to see to it that fellow faculty members are informed about the candidates and their views on education and specifically the junior colleges." Three months after Republican candidate Ronald Reagan's gubernatorial victory, the co-editors invited CJCFA President Donald Fitzgerald to respond to the governor-elect's—and then governor's—proposal to deduct 10% from university and state college budgets, as well as his proposal for university tuition.

### 1969

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### 1977

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In the February 1967 issue, the CJCFA president admitted that the Republican “governor and his advisors are demanding unconditional surrender from those who support the Master Plan. A likely outcome is increased faculty and student militancy.” In the next issue, Smith predicted that “liberal legislators who are carry-overs are also going to be acting very conservatively this session, a result of the 1966 election returns,” but hoped that the Democratic majority in the State Assembly would force “an open and drastic split with his [Governor Reagan’s] legislative program.”

In a June 1967 Bulletin, Bill Smith discussed SB 669, a law transferring control of California junior colleges to a board of governors appointed by the state governor and confirmed by the Senate. Smith also summarized the Bee Bill (AB 1790), establishing the Chancellor’s Office for California Junior Colleges. The Board of Governors selected and appointed a chancellor, aligning with CJCFA’s early endorsement of the bill in 1963 [1964].

In 1969, the California Junior College Faculty Association, rechristened the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) and established its main office in Sacramento. After the 1974 election of Democratic Governor Jerry Brown (son of former Governor Edmund G. “Pat” Brown), editors of this new FACCC Bulletin refocused reports by Bill Smith’s successor, attorney Karen Angel, on Board of Governors activities as well as legislation such as Proposition 13. After a 1977 retirement, FACCC officers appointed attorney Karen Angel to the position of executive director. Editors suggested publication of legislative articles in a newsletter distinct from the faculty-authored FACCC Bulletin. The next month, an announcement appeared in the Bulletin: “this January FACCC inaugurated a new monthly newsletter: *FACCCTS...Trends, Decisions and Events at the State Capitol*.” Two years later, new Executive Director and attorney Patrick McCallum assumed the role of primary author of *FACCCTS*.

In the December 1982 issue of *FACCCTS*, Patrick McCallum informed readers that “George Deukmejian may be one of the more supportive governors for CCs”. Governor-elect Deukmejian has stated that public education is one of his top priorities.” But in January 1983, McCallum referred to a proposed 8% deduction from

the community college budget as “CCs Duked.” At the end of Deukmejian’s second term, he retrospectively averred that “the community colleges didn’t get the same funding increases during Deukmejian’s second term as say, prisons, but we received just enough to begin the long road to recovery.”

In the December 1990 issue (co-edited by Kelly Wilkerson), FACCC President Dolores Campbell, Vice President Marjorie Lasky, and former President Ted Hamilton critiqued Governor-elect Pete Wilson’s campaign pledges. They called for support in K-14 budgets, community college funds, the Transfer Guarantee Bill, more full-time faculty, and better retirement benefits in an open letter. Four years later, Patrick McCallum and co-editors expressed concerns that Governor Wilson might rely on “phantom federal funds” and increased student fees. Thomas Nussbaum recalled subsidies after enrollment and transfers, a facet of Wilson’s “Partnership for Excellence.”

To counter the uncertainty of the Deukmejian era, McCallum and new *FACCCTS* co-editors David Hawkins and Kim Weir showed faculty endorsement by publishing FACCC’s support for Kathleen Brown, the democratic treasurer, for governor in 1994. Brown’s speech on community college accessibility, fee equality, credit transfer, and faculty involvement was featured. Incumbent Governor Wilson’s victory led to reproducing John Dowden’s CJCFA address by Richard Nixon from 1962, who later became president. The journal’s name changed to *FACCCTS: The Journal of California Community College Faculty*.

The journal continued to highlight calls to action and endorsements. By September 1998, the *FACCCTS* communications committee announced FACCC endorsement of Gray Davis as California governor and published an interview with the candidate. On the heels of Gray Davis’ election to the governor’s office, the reflective piece paved the way for Jonathan Lightman to succeed McCallum as executive director.

Four years later, the FACCC Political Action Committee (PAC)—composed of five full-time faculty—authored an interests-based endorsement for the reelection of Gray Davis. In March 2002, communication committee member John McFarland authored a well-received

brief narrative of California gubernatorial elections. In the next issue, the PAC argued that “FACCC’s role is to advance the interests of community college faculty. In this gubernatorial election, faculty members’ interests are best furthered through an endorsement of Gov. Gray Davis’ reelection...FACCC’s decision is based on Davis’ record on community college issues—not energy, the environment or abortion—and his [incumbent] prospects for victory.” In keeping with new Democratic ideas on contested consensus, the committee identified itself as “bipartisan” and FACCC officers as “bipartisan.” This committee claimed that Davis’ appointees to the California Community College Board of Governors “have transformed this [Republican] environment from rejection and hostility to interest and openness.” According to Executive Director Jonathan Lightman, however, FACCC confidence in Gray Davis wavered during the editorial process for publication of the endorsement. Lightman disclosed “that we struggled with what to do with our endorsement because we suspected that Davis was going to win, but he had already shown signs that he wasn’t so supportive of community colleges (this was prior to the recession so we didn’t know how bad he was). Ultimately, we tepidly endorsed him without any fanfare. We explained our rationale in *FACCCTS*, essentially burying the endorsement on an even-numbered page in the back of the journal.” During the 2003 recall referendum, “it had gotten so bad with him [Gray Davis], there was no possible way we could endorse his continuation as governor. On the other hand, we were not a fan of the recall, which caused a bit of a discussion. In the end, we did not take a position on the recall and supported Cruz Bustamante in the succession election assuming the recall was successful.”

Lightman led a revival in FACCC and *FACCCTS* amid a tough economy that overlapped with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown’s terms in office by navigating the association through the storm of what he described as a “collapsing economy.” A 2008 issue of the journal highlighted his chief purpose for the journal and for FACCC: “student success.” The issue included narrative after narrative of student experiences in the California community college system, demonstrating “the complex nature of the community college classroom.”

By 2014, the FACCC vice president chaired a “publications committee” that supervised the publication of *FACCCTS*, with a staff communications director for editorial guidance and support. Vice President John Smith, a faculty member from Santiago Canyon College, hoped that the journal would feature “a range of faculty voices, from the newly-hired to nearing retirement. The issues highlighted may vary, but the goal is the same—the success of our students.” The

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year, the FACCC president added that the Faculty Association had endeavored to elevate career technical education “more prominently on the state’s agenda.”

In the six years before the COVID-19 pandemic, the “publications committee” became the “communications committee” once more, with part-time faculty serving as chairs and FACCC associate directors and event coordinators as editorial advisors. In 2018, FACCC cautiously endorsed Gavin Newsom for California governor. FACCC further endorsed Newsom’s reelection, but communications committee members had grown leery of Newsom’s track record on various bills, including those pertaining to part-time faculty.

In the pages of *FACCCTS*, communications committee members and FACCC officers additionally promoted the idea of an ethnic studies requirement in California community colleges. The “signing of AB 1460 by Governor Newsom [for CSU]” and “expected growth in demand for courses in ethnic studies disciplines at California Community Colleges” fueled debates over a similar requirement in the community colleges of the Golden State. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges subsequently proposed the following revisions to Title 5 §55063:

***“Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2021 term or any term thereafter, competence in ethnic studies shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a course from an ethnic studies discipline at the first- or second-year level. Satisfactory completion of an ethnic studies course at the first- or second-year level shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision (b) of this section. The competency requirements for ethnic studies may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in ethnic studies taught in or on behalf of other departments and disciplines that adhere to the minimum qualifications for ethnic studies disciplines as delineated in the California Community Colleges.”***

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2021, the California Community College Board of Governors approved ASCCC/5C Title 5 §55063 revisions. These changes were seen as a response to faculty and student calls for an ethnic studies degree requirement. This move aligned with efforts to establish ethnic studies as a transfer requirement for CSU. Board of Governors President Pamela Haynes emphasized the opportunity for equity by fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and anti-racism in the system to better serve students and communities.

As the state Legislature increases its willingness to legislate community colleges, *FACCCTS* authors and editors will be there to evaluate, engage, publish, and make the history of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. ■

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