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The Aftermath

The 2016 Elections and Consequences

David Lau



Anti-Trump Protests in Los Angeles

So Much Trouble in the World.

Much ink has spilled over the “shock” of Donald Trump’s election victory. How could it be that a country undergoing a demographic transformation, full of “enlightened” professionals, a country that had just elected and then re-elected its first black president, would now be sending a racist and misogynistic demagogue to the highest office in the land? Hillary Clinton, who was advertised as a sure thing by the liberal press, had a disappointing showing in the crucial states on the Electoral College map. Clinton had all but locked it up and then the inexplicable happened.

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A Rally Success!

CCFT Mobilizes Campus-Wide Support for Prop 55

Tobin W. Keller & Sadie Reynolds

While the shocking presidential election results have sent the world into a tailspin, California’s statewide elections handed us several victories, among them the passage of Prop 55.

On October 19, CCFT held a YES on Prop 55 rally in the quad on the main Cabrillo campus. CCFT Adjunct Committee and COPE Chair Sadie Reynolds and I worked with COPE & Council members Susan Stuart and Gail West, to organize the event, which included the very successful pop up T-shirt screen-printing booth that featured a unique and dynamic Yes on 55 design by Cabrillo College student, Rachel Huang. Rachel’s design was the winner of our \$100 competi-



Tobin W. Keller with students from his screen printing class, L to R, Forrest Dillon-Hurley, Sammy Gervacio, Natalie King (in back), Lea Rickers, Milly Newton, Rachel Huang (in back), Sal Bretter.

tion. Two hours of non-stop printing fun was had by seven of my current students who printed several dozen shirts.

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CCFT President's Report

Reflections on Unity

Karl Ewald

For me, the tail end of any process is usually paired with a healthy dose of reflection. As the negotiations process drew to a close, I spent a lot of time thinking about the processes we use to make decisions. The core of our process involves voting and nearly all our voting is of the ye or nay variety. Depending on the specifics of the motion, the ratio of yeas to nays can vary considerably but ultimately the majority determines our way forward.

Along the path to ratification, we address our common interests, but we must also face those places where we have differing interests. Within our union, the most difficult discussions seem to revolve around pro rata: the percentage that relates the adjunct/overload salary schedule to the contract/regular salary schedule. This year's discussion, like those of years past, was difficult. Rather than focus on the difficulties, I'd like to bring attention to our eventual result. The voice vote in Council on moving pro rata from 64.8% to 65.2% was nearly unanimous (2 nay votes). This was followed by a unanimous vote to recommend ratification of the whole contract to our membership.

Our full membership vote yielded 228 yes votes and 14 no votes. It would be incredibly presumptive for me to suggest these margins are indicative of anyone's deep satisfaction with details. Rather, they point to a willingness to move forward together despite any sense of dissatisfaction.

One feature of Robert's Rules and ye/nay voting is that if the majority can bring a vote, it can overwhelm the minority and essentially disregard the minority position. We started the semester talking about unity and we tried to keep it present in our minds as we moved through the semester. We designed our processes hoping to preserve unity as best we could. Pure unity, 100% agreement, is hard to achieve especially if we are committed to acknowledging and balancing our differing interests. Ultimately we failed in our goal of perfect unity. Despite that failure and despite the sense of dissatisfaction many feel, I'm proud of our Council for finding a compromise where nearly everyone could agree on a path forward.

As our country moves into a future that seems uniquely uncertain, we may need each other more than ever and we might lean heavily on our collective willingness to preserve unity over any particular interest. I'm worried about the challenges we might face, but I'm glad to be working with a team that has already shown its strength and character. Together we will find our way.



Post Election Reports on Campus

with CCFT Council Members Jeff Bergamini and Beth McKinnon

Jeff:

Students in an evening class opted to spend open-lab time decompressing—talking with each other, instead of working. There was a young man, the son of Latin-American immigrants, who had served in Afghanistan. He took some joy in seeing the Clinton campaign lose, but none in seeing Trump win. There was a young woman from Eastern Europe. Currently dealing with a domestic violence situation, she feared a potential slide toward violence and bigotry, but also understood the lack of enthusiastic support for the Democratic party. There was an openly gay young man, formerly a supporter of Bernie Sanders, who was shocked that the Republican party could have won with such a poor candidate.

They spoke to each other with consideration and civility, but also with a sense of disillusionment, and a "damned if you do..." mentality. They all believed that the support for Trump, and the lack of enthusiasm for Clinton, could not be blamed entirely on racism and misogyny.

Perhaps if this election means anything as the measure of a moment, it is a wake-up call: If our political system lacks authentic progressive and inclusive options, someone else will organize the great numbers of people in this country that feel politically disengaged.



Beth :

Two DACA students in Allied Health programs came to ASC believing they could not register for the spring semester. They wanted to know if ICE could come to campus and arrest them. It's difficult to counsel in the face of so much uncertainty. My response was to tell them to register as always and that Cabrillo is committed to student safety and we would face this threat together. The truth is that we don't know what will happen. The president-elect will have the authority to overturn DACA by executive order but it's beginning to sound like this may not be a priority to him. Whether sooner or later, the campus needs to reassure students in all risk categories that Cabrillo is a safe space. There is a lot of discussion about sanctuary campuses and we'll need to discover what this actually means. Meanwhile, every member of the Cabrillo community should be that safe person for students and one another to talk to about our fears and misgivings about the near future.



Message from the Office of Equity and Community Engagement at Cabrillo College

Leticia Maldonado

It is a critical and painful time for students at Cabrillo College and across the nation as they are devalued and threatened by a national climate, a climate that clearly for many has been in existence long before this election. Now more than ever it is important that we come together as staff, educators and leaders to gain a deep understanding of diversity. Let's take this time to reflect on how our own racial, ethnic, class and other identities and how our own unconscious biases affect our day-to-day decision-making processes and our interactions with students. We, at the Office of Equity, invite you to come together in community to do this internal and collective work together in order to reach and support our students effectively.

This is the time to ask how each one of us can and will contribute to a more equitable, critically conscious, and inclusive campus. Thank you for your continuous work and support.

For information Cabrillo's post-election response plan and upcoming events and community forums, please visit the following website.

<https://www.cabrillo.edu/services/studserv/PostElectionResourcesSupport.html>



A Rally Success!

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Sadie Reynolds, Karl Ewald in the background, and members of The Accountable Intersectionality Club,

Shirts for printing were provided by The Accountable Intersectionality Student club and were sold on a sliding scale. The dynamic student club also served pizza to the crowd that was hosted by the CCFT. Participating members included Walker Doven, Kayl Bourgault, and Lupe Forrester. Their support and enthusiasm was a wonderful and important addition.

The inclusivity of the event allowed for ad hoc speakers both in support and opposed to the proposition.

Emily Fotheringham, Student Senate Treasurer, organized Senate participation that included



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help with the event set up, voter registration, and speakers. They also provided free drinks.

The rally was followed by a press conference where Cabrillo President Laurel Jones spoke in favor of the proposition, along with Francisco Rodriguez, Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers President; Karina Cervantez Alejo, former Mayor of Watsonville; Candace Ashley, Cabrillo student and President of the Intersectionality Club; Robin McFarland, Faculty Senate President; and John Govsky,

CCFT Vice President and Faculty Senate Secretary.

The proposition extends a tax on the state's highest income earners for twelve years. It will fund public schools at the K-12 and Community College levels, as well as healthcare for low-income children in the state.

The passage of Prop 55 will help sustain Cabrillo for the next twelve years – a beacon of light in the otherwise dim outcome of the congressional and presidential election.



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

Approved by CCFT Council, November 14, 2016

WHEREAS, the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers (CCFT), AFT Local 4400, is very concerned about the United States government insistence upon routing the Dakota Access Pipeline Project (DAPL) through the sacred lands of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, The Dakota Access Pipeline Project (DAPL) is proposed to be a 1,172 mile pipeline that will transport a potential of 570,000 barrels of crude oil per day near the source of the drinking and irrigation water used by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other communities down river, and appears to be progressing without proper and meaningful consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe or addressing the ecological implications and potential health risks of the DAPL; and

WHEREAS, the CCFT strongly support the actions of the tribal government and the members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their efforts to challenge the location of the DAPL, where it crosses the Missouri River; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers' tentative approval of the DAPL route is contrary to the government relationship between the tribes and the federal government and dishonors the policy statements of President Barack Obama and his predecessors regarding the proper maintenance of the government to government relationship with tribal nations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers, AFT local 4400, supports the efforts of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to challenge the location of the DAPL Missouri River crossing and calls on the United States government, and its agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, to honor the trust relationship between the United States government and federally recognized Indian tribes by reversing the decision to approve the sites of the DAPL Missouri River crossing, and to engage in proper and meaningful consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.





CARE

CARE (Cooperative Agencies and Resources for Education) is a program offered through EOPS (Extended Opportunities Programs and Services) for single parents who are receiving CalWORKs and who meet other eligibility criteria. The primary goal of the program is to provide single parents additional support to help them attain economic self-sufficiency by earning a two year degree, a certificate of achievement or to transfer to a four year college.

For the past decade, CARE has been working with the Student Senate, Cabrillo Faculty and Staff to put on an exciting event during the fall semester. This event is a collaboration of all of Cabrillo College working together with a common goal; a special evening

for our CARE students and their children. On December 9th, CARE will host a Winter Wonderland with an Art focus. On that night, CARE families will enjoy a dinner, art activities, and a care package.

If you would like to get involved, you can purchase a \$25 Target or \$25 Toys R Us gift card OR make a monetary donation for any amount. Your donation will help to make up a care package. Your donations can be dropped off in the EOPS office, in room 907, next to the cafeteria, or you can call our office (479-6305) and we will pick up your donation. Please make your contribution by December 2nd. Volunteers are also needed for our event. If you would like to assist at one of the Art stations, please let me know.



The Aftermath

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Trump in Sarasota on election eve.

But in fact it wasn't too hard to see coming. Doubts persisted about Clinton's lock on the Presidency all through the primary and general election campaigns. Clinton and her advisors never foresaw the strong primary fight nor the general election challenge and wound up politically bleeding from these and other problems of her own making for many months. Neither her paid speeches nor her email server use would ever go away. Often enough she struggled to draw an organic crowd. Working class voter abstention in key

areas (a product of the enthusiasm gap) ultimately contributed to her Electoral College defeat.

While it is painfully obvious that Trump is selling a lie, much like his various con-artist business ventures and bankruptcies, just enough people were fed up with a status quo represented by Clinton. Victorious in the popular vote, she still lost by narrow margins in some key states. Trump's right-wing nationalist agenda, with Reagan-style open bigotry now back in combination with huge tax cuts, will work like a poisonous toxin on some large segments of the body public. But resistance is also in the air again (as it has been for the far left during the Obama era), with some liberals ready to criticize Trump policies that seemed to get a pass when they were products of the current administration: these include Obama's record deportations, imperial wars, failures to protect the environment, his misguided policies on public education, and his epic



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giveaways to the banking system and corporate elites in tech, real estate, and beyond.

As a many-times-bailed-out “businessman,” Trump benefitted from the legal stranglehold the capitalist class has over the legislature and the courts. Now he will be overseeing court appointments and signing laws. It’s a shame but it’s also time to fight. Our union must get onto a social movement footing and become more engaged in politics. It is now clear that lesser-evil electoral politics just won’t cut it anymore.

What Happened to Clinton?



Clinton concedes in New York

It was Clinton’s election to lose. Bruce A. Dixon argues astutely that the Clinton campaign played just three cards against Trump. The first in the thin deck was the fear of Trump, a card played every election cycle against the Republicans; next was the story of Hillary the human rights defender, concerned about black lives and undocumented immigrants, the criminal “injustice” system, unionized workers and opportunity for all, despite the former Wal-Mart board member’s career dedicated to the banks, the wars, border “security,” and self-enrichment; the third and strongest card in the hand was the endorsement of Obama and much of the political class, stretching from foreign policy Republicans to civil rights-icon Congressmen.

But enthusiasm didn’t materialize in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, and elsewhere. Her ground game, according to Christian Parenti, was “under-resourced and poorly executed.” They assumed the coming Democratic majority of voters

(a diverse coalition crucial to Obama’s victories) was behind them and what remained was to pick off some Republicans. Traditional Democrats, both working class whites and African Americans, were neglected until the final weeks and Clinton badly underperformed in both demographic groups. Depressed turnout in Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Detroit would prove costly, as it would in Tallahassee and Tampa. Republican voter suppression efforts further weakened the vote, the first without protection of the Voting Rights Act.

But rather than an election about the shift of working class white voters to Trump, it appears, according to Mike Davis, that Trump was able to retain the support of Romney voters, who were key to his tiny margins in the important states. He even outperformed Romney with some Republicans, marginally increasing his share of the evangelical vote. Armed with the fanatical Mike Pence as VP, Trump captured the entire social conservative agenda. Many white workers went Republican years ago and where the white working class did shift to Trump, it was decisive, as Davis points out in his analysis of early county returns; the lakeside areas of the upper Midwest, hard hit in recent years by a wave of plant closures and plant relocations to Mexico, went for Trump. White workers in these areas polled strongly for Obama in the past two election cycles, but with Clinton running toward a rightward drifting center, she largely abandoned the momentum that Sanders could have passed along on trade. The defeated Clinton Democrats now lack the necessary quotient of self-criticism; Charles Schumer (D-Wall Street) is the new Senate minority leader. This current manifestation of the national party is captured by big money power.

We owe the rise of Trump in part to the legacy of Wall Street Democrats. Jürgen Habermas attributes the rise of right-wing populism in Europe and the US to the rightward drift of center-left and other assorted onetime social democratic political parties. The Democrats are a case in point, as was New Labour under Tony Blair. One-time center-left parties, they



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have abandoned their constituencies in neoliberal, “pro-market” policy decisions for many years now. As Habermas rather aptly puts it: “in the ‘battle for the middle ground’ these political parties thought they could win majorities only by adopting the neoliberal course of action. This meant taking on board toleration of long-standing and growing social inequalities. Meantime, this price – the economic and socio-cultural ‘hanging out to dry’ of ever-greater parts of the populace – has clearly risen so high that the reaction to it has gone over to the right. And where else? If there is no credible and pro-active perspective, then protest simply retreats into expressivist, irrational forms.”

Hard Right in Trumpland

The contradictions of a waning American Imperium, that security guarantor of a stagnant, crisis-prone global capitalism, have brought us to the cliff’s edge where Trump’s capture of power became possible. First he marched through a phalanx of well-funded and diverse Republicans in the primary, dispatching both insiders and Tea-Partiers alike. In defeating Clinton, he has damaged a generation of Democratic politics beholden to the corporate elite. This entire march has been emanating from the hard right-wing of American politics, the dark mirror of exclusionist racism and classism in our land of “dreams.” The openness of Trump’s anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican bigotry, clear-cut racism, and wild-eyed misogyny has frightened many decent Americans.

And next comes a right-wing nationalist program, both xenophobic and anti-globalist. On the stump during the election, Trump was neither a doctrinaire neoliberal on economic issues nor a neoconservative with respect to foreign policy. In fact, he was extremely contradictory (or just hollow) and thus created some space for the most profound zigzags on campaign promises. His early cabinet picks seem to portend a very right-wing government, whose agenda includes huge tax cuts, climate denialism, the domestic repression of social movements, and a last ditch effort to prolong The War on Drugs.

The Republicans return to near total power in Washington, something they last had in the early years of George W. Bush’s second term. On foreign policy, Trump has at times sounded neo-isolationist notes in the campaign, even criticizing Clinton on the wars, but he is settling in with a militarist-dominated group of advisors. (There is a resemblance with the Bush Administration campaign and transition here.) In the Middle East, he confronts many immediate crises. Indeed, his predicament is not enviable. The Syrian Civil War continues to rage on; Obama’s attempts at limiting the territory of ISIS, while also seeking to undermine Assad who is ISIS’s main enemy, continue to have many unintended consequences.

The latest developments in the Middle East include US air-support for the Iraqi Army’s attempts to retake Tal Afar and Mosul from ISIS, along with a last minute Obama administration ask for \$11 billion from Congress. With Shia and Kurdish militias as the only reinforcements for the Iraqis, the Turkish government under Erdogan has mobilized mechanized divisions along the border with Iraq and threatened to invade if either ethnic militias enter the predominately Sunni Muslim cities. What will the Trump administration do? His principle advisors are Islamophobic war hawks and even if a nice guy like Bernie Sanders were President there are no easy answers. Any “success” will come at a steep price: further destabilization, with possible state collapse, and many more refugees.

On trade Trump also sounded notes out of tune with neoliberal doctrine, but will he actually implement protectionist policies? This seems like another possible zigzag on campaign promises. After an initial dip, markets have rallied to record highs. Investors expect both huge corporate and modest middle-class tax cuts, with the latter likely stimulating demand. Fed interest rate hikes are now likely. Cuts to social protections and domestic spending will be the likely consequence here. His much-heralded infrastructure plan contains some new spending proposals; but it too is a package of tax cuts for construction industry firms. The job gains some of his voters might have been hoping for will be

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very limited. Stocks and real estate assets may get a nominal price bounce, but the economy will remain weak for ordinary working people.

For the Teachers' Unions, Trump's domestic agenda will likely mean a renewed push for school vouchers, charter schools, and other schemes for the wholesale privatization of public education. In addition to giveaways, Federal cuts to education spending will be the budgetary rule. When he appoints a Justice to the Supreme Court, we may see the immediate return of *Friedrichs v. CTA* to the court docket. A decision that throws out or chips away "agency fee" as precedent (in place since the *Abood* decision) would dramatically weaken public sector unions. Our union and others must now gird themselves for profoundly defensive struggles as the public sector is truly last bastion of organized labor in the country. This form of defense may require us to go on the offensive.

Ballot Propositions, Silver Linings, and Building Resistance

Trump arrives in office on his back foot, the loser of the popular vote who lacks basic credibility with a large portion of society. Meanwhile, California unions still have the political power to raise wages and taxes. Employers, big businesses, and investors fear this power, so we know the renewed Supreme Court threat is very real for our union. Indeed, the silver lining of the election is not just a thoroughly discredited imperial Presidency; for CFT, the real upshot is the passage of both initiatives we were backing. Proposition 55 passed in a landslide win with 62.8% of the vote, and there was no organized opposition to speak of. Prop 55 will keep in place the taxes 2012's Prop 30 first raised, with higher income taxes on individuals making over \$250,000 and couples making over \$500,000 extended until 2030. The

The roaring success of the tax measure has even made the repeal of Prop 13 thinkable and there may also be public appetite for oil and gas extraction taxes. The list of positives goes on: CFT-backed Proposition 58, which will restore bilingual education funding, passed handily. Prop 64 legalized cannabis and sent yet another signal that the country is tired of the business-as-usual War on Drugs. Two of the four "brand new council" candidates are now on the Santa Cruz City Council; the Monterey Bay Labor Council backed Chris Krohn and Sandy Brown in their successful electoral bids. Local bonds A & B, both for the city schools, passed. In the wider Bay Area, rent control passed in Richmond and several other cities.

At the national level, there is also a silver lining. The party of the President nearly always loses seats in the midterm elections. This has been particularly true of center-right Democrats like Bill Clinton and Obama, who have seen massive, historic wipeouts of Democrats in Congress and state legislatures while they themselves went on to win reelection. Certainly Hillary Clinton would have been in a weak position as President, with Republicans in charge of both House and Senate. We can only speculate, but Clinton herself may well have seen another major loss of seats to Republicans in 2018. Now Trump faces this situation. Democrats will need to defend many seats in 2018 but in doing so they should be able to rally opposition against Trump in the midterms. Much will depend on a well-organized push from below.

Indeed, another light in this dark situation has been spontaneous upsurge in popular protest in the streets, principally led by young people, whether on campus (from colleges and universities to high schools) or in the streets of major cities. Many of these protestors do not appear to be motivated by putting Clinton into the White House so much as total outrage that a right-wing Republican has won. The practice of resistance has flourished with walkouts,



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freeway blockades, occupations, demos and rallies—all crucial tactics of contemporary networked social movements. There is a new spirit in the air, something much needed in the sleepwalking end of the Obama era, where almost nothing provokes liberal outrage: trillions to the banks and weak Wall St. reforms; chaos in the Middle East and North Africa, with revolutionary youth defeated in Egypt, and the Saudis recently given carte blanche for the bombardment of Yemen; #NoDAPL water protectors attacked brutally for months, while oil and gas exploration have run wild during the Obama years. Let's hope folks have been shocked awake.

As Angela Davis recently remarked: "Community is the answer." The protests, if they are to be significant, must spread beyond the usual activists into layers of people uninterested in politics. This is the test of a social

movement. And defenses must be firmed up, particularly as public sector unions face new legal onslaughts in the courts.

As we know well in the union, there are no shortcuts. We also know that the power to challenge the 1% is the product of our defenses. By engaging the community broadly, with the goals of protecting the vulnerable and forming progressive coalitions that stand for something other than the "show politics" of pandering (Rodolfo F. Acuña), we can be part of a movement that hoists Trump on his own right-wing nationalist petard. A strong opposition, one that puts some backbone into the filibuster of invertebrate Senate Democrats, can perhaps doom Trump's early years in government. Oppositional forms of social organization with real endurance are what we need now, the things out of which we construct a different future.



Message from Faculty Senate

Robin McFarland

The Faculty Senate adopted the following resolution. We stand with our students, our campus colleagues, and our community as we face the future together.

Be it resolved, in the immediate aftermath of the 2016 presidential election, that the Faculty of the Cabrillo College Senate stand united as part of an academic community enriched by the diversity of our students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Each individual and group has the potential to contribute in our learning environment. We welcome all students to learn to the best of their abilities on our campus in an environment free from racism, sexism, bigotry, harassment, and oppression.

We uphold these ideals ourselves, and strongly encourage our colleagues across the college both to uphold these ideals, and to teach them when appropriate to our students as a way to move human society forward.





Raoul Teilhet Scholarships

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS and
CONTINUING COLLEGE STUDENTS

The CFT offers scholarships to high school seniors and college students who are children or dependents of CFT members in good standing. Students enrolled in four-year courses of study are eligible for \$3000 scholarships; those enrolled in two-year courses of study are eligible for \$1000.

Scholarship eligibility

- ◆ Award selection is based on academic achievement, special talents and skills, participation in extracurricular activities, community service, financial need, and a 500-word essay on a social issue of the applicant's choice.
- ◆ Scholarships are awarded for any one year of higher education.
- ◆ Students must be listed as a dependent on their parents' or guardians' tax return to be eligible for this scholarship.
- ◆ Parents or guardians will be asked to have their local union president verify union membership.
- ◆ Students who received scholarships as high school seniors are not eligible for another scholarship during college.

Raoul Teilhet Scholarship applications and deadlines

- ◆ For High School Seniors
Deadline to submit applications: January 10, 2017
- ◆ For Continuing College Students
Deadline to submit applications: July 1, 2017

For more information:

see the CFT website at

<http://cft.org/member-services/scholarships/national-scholarships.html>

Learn more about scholarships offered by the AFT and the AFL-CIO at
<http://cft.org/member-services/scholarships/national-scholarships.html>