

Student Forums at Santa Ana College-November 2016

On Tuesday, November 15 2016, and Monday, November 21, 2016 I invited students, staff, and faculty to attend Student Open Forums. The purpose of the forums was to provide students with the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions, to ask questions, share their concerns, either verbally or on index cards about the outcome of the recent national Presidential elections.

Comments made by the campus community are aggregated below. Please note that the questions below were also an outcome of many of the comments made.

What can a student do if they feel unsafe in a classroom or on campus?

- There are resources available at SAC for students where they can share their concerns. A student in crisis can find help through [Psychological Services](#), the [Counseling Division](#) and other offices on campus.
 - If a student has concerns about an occurrence they find disturbing in a classroom, they should speak with their Instructor. If students are not comfortable speaking with their Instructor, the Department Chair or Dean is also available to address their concerns.
- **Will the results of the election affect the cost of education? How will this affect [BOG Waivers](#)? Will the tuition increase for undocumented students?**
 - As of now, SAC is not aware of plans by the California Community College Chancellors Office to increase tuition for any of our students.
 - **Will SAC give out my information?**
 - No. [FERPA](#) protects all student and staff information with the exception of the following four items, and even these are heavily protected:
 - Name
 - Dates of Enrollment
 - Whether or not a student has graduated
 - Whether or not a student participated in athletics
 - **What can be done to facilitate [civil discourse](#) among the SAC community?**
 - A [Directed Learning Activity](#) at the Learning Center.
 - A [Professional Development](#) course for faculty and staff.
 - A student club centered on discourse.
 - A student cohort geared toward both citizenship and counseling.
 - Working to increase student participation in trainings such as [LGBTQ Safe Space training](#), AB540 Safe Space training or [VetNet Ally training](#).
 - SAC will research the process involved with the designation as a [sanctuary campus](#).
 - Publicize the location of the campus Free Speech Zone.
 - Create panels, events, and forums for students to share their experiences and stories.

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- Issue a letter from SAC administrators to the campus community reaffirming our commitment to supporting all students.
- **What can be done to help students feel safer off campus?**
 - Help facilitate further student-led discussion forums/panels in the future.
 - Provide education to the campus community on the topic of [civil discourse](#).
 - Contact [CHIRLA](#), [ACLU](#), or [ILRC](#) about hosting a “know your rights” workshop.
 - Increase community knowledge of and access to [CEC Citizenship Courses](#).
 - Expand Citizenship Education at CEC to cover the entire citizenship process.
 - Expanded workshops on immigration, and related legislation.
 - Increase access to identification cards for undocumented students.
 - CEC students will have access in the coming months.
 - Attend [City Council meetings](#) and get to know the surrounding community.
 - GO TO CLASS! Show that you are still committed to your goals and your future.
 - Support the new Undocumented Students Club on campus. The group is currently seeking signature support and plans to meet on a regular basis in the spring.
- **How can SAC enhance the effectiveness of communication with its students?**
 - The website is currently being redesigned with an emphasis on functionality.
 - Increase distribution of promotional materials for events and resources in print and online.
 - The use of text message updates are being considered, as appropriate.
- **What other situations has SAC dealt with in the past that could inform how we address legislation that could be potentially harmful for students?**
 - SAC has continued to serve students through the changes brought about by [Prop 187](#) & [Prop 209](#).
- **What should students be doing to protect their personal information?**
 - When anyone on campus, outside of your initiation to provide the information, asks for your info, check with Campus Security to see if they are authorized to do so.
 - When online, research sites that request your data.
 - When on social media, operate under the assumption that nothing is private and nothing can be deleted.
 - The Federal Trade Commission’s [Consumer Information Guide](#) has more information on keeping personal information secure.
- **How can we impress the importance of critical and conscious consumption of electronic messaging, digital and social media among our students at SAC?**

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- Research should be incorporated into civil discourse training on campus.
- SAC's Nealley Library offers workshops on research as well as online guides.
- Harvard College offers a [helpful guide](#) to evaluating sources.

I want to thank students, staff, and faculty who attended the two Forums. The information shared during these sessions was valuable. We hope that through these two initial Forums, we learned about topics that are on the minds of our students, faculty, and staff. I hope that members of the SAC community feel inspired to continue these important dialogues. Plans are being made to implement changes in response to many of the topics mentioned above. In the meantime, students are encouraged to reach out to an instructor and any of the resources listed in this summary, or listed on the [SAC Student Open Forum page](#) for further information. This is a great beginning!