

"From Your Mouth to Their Ears: Consulting Made Simple" —by Sam Pierstorff

Simply stated, I would like to be your next Faculty Consultant to the YCCD Board of Trustees. In the last ten years as a faculty member, I have held several positions that make me a strong candidate:

- Academic Senate Representative, Division of Literature & Language Arts, 2001-2003.
- Academic Senate Executive Board Member, Secretary 2003-2006.
- College Council Representative, 2003-2006.
- Faculty Co-Chair, Institute Day Planning Committee, 2005-2006.
- Faculty Co-Chair, Accreditation, Standard II.B, 2005.
- Editor-in-Chief, *Quercus Review* /Quercus Review Press. 2000-Current.
- Founder, *Slam on Rye*, Modesto's Monthly Poetry Slam. 2003-Current.

Through these positions, I have been able to work well with people with diverse interests; advocate for faculty rights and academic freedom; encourage openness and transparency in shared governance; foster greater discussion, particularly through my founding of *dis*course*, MJC's faculty senate publication; demonstrate solid leadership and follow-through skills; work through problems, settle disputes, and find mutually agreeable solutions; speak confidently in public forums; oversee and negotiate budgets; run efficient meetings; write successful grants, agendas, and memorandum; generate and implement innovative new ideas; and create a participatory environment where people feel free to express their ideas.

In addition to having the right experience, the Faculty Consultant to the Board must possess certain intangible qualities like compassion, strong speaking (and listening) skills, and, for the tough times, a sense of humor. This position also requires a willingness to speak the truth to power. The best candidate for this job must be understanding and open-minded—someone who is willing to respect and listen to all sides—but someone whose loyalty remains with faculty.

I believe I am that person.

As a faculty liaison to the Chancellor and to the Board, I will remain keenly aware of the views of faculty from Columbia College and Modesto Junior College on all issues, and I will impart those positions to the Board and to the Chancellor without fear of retribution. I am confident that I can say the tough things that need to be said, but I can say them in a collegial, professional, yet persuasive manner.

From your mouth to their ears, that's my motto. If faculty need to be heard, I will gladly be their voice—formally or informally as needed to best reach those who may be hardest to reach. It's essential that communication lines remain open, strong, and active between faculty, its leadership, the Chancellor, and the Board, and I am confident that I can facilitate effective dialogue between all parties.

I have watched faculty members move too quickly into executive positions and then suddenly become "managers," advocating less and less for faculty and echoing more and more the demands of administrators. I recognize that the real power of this position rests in the collective hands of the faculty members being served by the Consultant. If I am elected Faculty Consultant to the Board, I will never forget my primary responsibility to my colleagues.

I would appreciate your vote.

Respectfully,
Sam Pierstorff