

Greetings Trustees, thank you for the opportunity to address you again this evening. I'd like to begin by congratulating Trustees Gharat, Beggs and Aguilar for their re-election campaigns. While we await certified results for all Trustee Area races, faculty at MJC have turned the corner on the Fall 2020 semester of instruction and we begin the frenzied dash to the finish line. Indeed, November is shaping up to be an intense and busy month. Personally, I'll briefly share, I'm a bit worried about this month. I've been plagued by one question: If I haven't shaved for 8 months, can I still participate in No-Shave November? So, in my spare moments, I'll continue to ponder this Zen koan concerning facial hair, but in the meantime there is plenty to keep us all busy.

A few items of note. Congratulations to Professors Jeremy Wilson (Engineering) and Debbie Gilbert (English) for being selected faculty leads of the "Strengthening Innovation and Technical Ecosystems (SITE) Program Grant" from the State Chancellor's Office and [Lemelson-MIT](#). They will spearhead and develop an exciting two-year college invention education program. Thank you to President Houpis, Dr. Zellet and Dr. Abbott for their support in this important active, contextualized education project.

We also continue to work with Chancellor Yong and Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, Allan McKissick, to encourage future faculty board presentations.

In other campus news, the [Participatory Governance Workgroup](#) will be presenting its recommendations for reconsidering our college-wide decision-making at College Council on Monday and we look forward to collaboratively fostering a framework and culture of efficient, well-informed participatory governance at MJC.

Also, thank you to Professor Al Smith for his ground-breaking work for UMOJA, and Eric Ivory for his interim leadership of the UMOJA program, which is now posed to offer a self-paced, faculty training module at MJC to help instructors develop culturally responsive teaching practices.

Michael Jackson is organizing several Red, White, Blue Ally Workshops this week to educate MJC staff and faculty on the best ways to work with, understand and support our student veterans.

Congratulations to Ariana Gonzalez, who was one of four local Latino leaders honored at the first Annual 2020 Latino Leadership Award ceremony, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Healthy Living Series continues, as well, the next event in the series is “The Therapist is In: Saving Lives” with Lynn Bristow on November 12th.

Finally, we wish a fond farewell to a few people. First, Music instructor Steve Grubb has taught at MJC for 44 years, led the Organ Studies area of the Music Program and created our “Music of the Beatles” course. We wish him the very best.

And last but certainly not least, Board Chair Abe Rojas. I’ve found the last year and a half as Academic Senate president to be surprisingly wonderful. One of the highlights has been getting to know Trustees better and to understand the complex institutional issues you grapple with daily. It was a true honor being able to spend a bit of time with Board Chair Rojas on his 85th Birthday last year to present a giant, signed birthday card. It is rare to meet someone with such a dedication to public service and, on behalf of the MJC Senate, we wish you happiness in your next chapters. The writer Margaret Bonanno reminds us that “It is only possible to live happily ever after on a daily basis,” and the days I’ve spent getting to know Board Chair Rojas have indeed offered much joy. Thank you for your commitment to serving us all and may you live happily ever after, every day.