

Hey Cal Poly Humboldt!

Hope all y'all are well and finding happiness where you can. I've been watching a lot of brass band streams in anticipation of Mardi Gras, and while it makes for a weird sentence, nothing brings me joy like a tuba.

I was travelling for much of last week, so I feel a little out of the loop; thank you to Jayne McGuire for stepping in while I was out.

Given this, I'd like to use my report to just reflect on a couple of things going on today. At the end of today's meeting we will likely be celebrating our newly appointed emeritus faculty and ERFSA member, Kenny Richards. Kenny has worked at the School of Education as the Program Leader of our Educational Leadership/Administrative Credential Program since 2014, helping to get local teachers the required licensure to become Principals for our local schools. For as long as I have been at the School of Ed, Kenny has been engaged in helping his students and candidates there.

Prior to joining us at the School of Education, Kenny worked in local school districts in multiple capacities, ranging from teacher and coach to district superintendent, for 37 years. All told, Kenny has been working to support our educational systems for close to 48 years. Besides being proud of and happy for my friend and colleagues, I am in awe of the realization of commitment to life of service to education. I, probably like most of us, aspire to living and having lived a similar life and commitment, and it is reassuring to take note of those who put in the work.

In keeping with the idea of "putting in the work", a number of Senators, including myself, met with a group of new faculty members in the CTL today. During that meeting we all sort of pontificated upon what service has meant to us in our given contexts, and what we learned or gained from engaging in committees and shared governance. I didn't think of anything smart at the time, but while leaving, I considered how being engaged in University service allows us to be democratic stewards of a public trust. During an era of widespread existential upheaval around democratic expectations and public services, we, in our local, finite capacity, get to be bulwarks against erosion of those services and norms. We get a space to try to fix our processes so that they best serve our students and our community. We get to help people, or at least try to help people, as a means of employment. I don't want to downplay the complexities and the hurt and the injustices wrapped up in all of what we do and talk about, but, at a base level, I work at a school and that feels kinda good to me, today, despite all of the stuff.

best,
jim

