

College of Alameda Academic Senate
Vote of No Confidence in District General Services Leadership
March 7, 2024

Whereas, The Peralta Community College District's (PCCD) Department of General Services (DGS) is tasked with providing “centralized services to the Peralta Community College District,” which includes “capital planning and management, real property leasing, maintenance of facilities and equipment, energy management, custodial and security services, as well as parking¹”;

Whereas, As part of PCCD, DGS is equally responsible for supporting the district’s stated mission of “advancing social and economic transformation for students and the community through quality education, rooted in equity, social justice, environmental sustainability, and partnerships,” acting as the centralized conduit that operationalizes college facility needs²;

Whereas, The colleges are tasked with stabilizing and even increasing FTES on campuses where DGS representatives themselves– and multiple independent contractors– allude to “long-standing” issues that have seen little or no improvement, sometimes for years, despite considerable spending and nebulous leadership strategies;

Whereas, The College of Alameda continues to endure ongoing and unresolved facilities problems directly related to DGS inaction and mismanagement;

Whereas, Classrooms in the College of Alameda Science Annex went four months without heat in the height of winter between November 2022 to March 2023, with indoor temperatures plummeting as low as 52 degrees Fahrenheit, leading faculty to cancel class over health and safety concerns or relocate to the main campus, disrupting teaching and learning;

Whereas, The College of Alameda cafeteria closed in Spring 2018³ after receiving a “D” grade from health inspectors due to uncleanness, malfunctioning equipment, and multiple code violations, leaving students and employees on campus without consistent access to meals for purchase for almost five years;

¹<https://www.peralta.edu/generalservices>

²<https://www.peralta.edu/strategic-plan/mission#:~:text=The%20Peralta%20Community%20College%20District,%2C%20environmental%20sustainability%2C%20and%20partnerships.>

³<https://peraltacitizen.com/2018/12/21/tower-watch%E2%80%8A-%E2%80%8AAlaney-and-college-of-alameda-work-to-improve-cafeteria-food-safety/>

Whereas, Despite the departure of the district locksmith in August 2022, planning or communication from DGS has been largely absent, thus keys are not made or provided to faculty in a timely manner, leaving faculty to lend or borrow keys as a workaround, or search for staff nearby to unlock classrooms and other facilities, causing classes to start late and disrupt learning;

Whereas, Some keyless door locks in the “new” H-Building no longer function, leaving faculty and students locked out of classrooms and again, relying on staff to manually unlock doors or leave classrooms unlocked as a workaround;

Whereas, Decommissioned C-Building has been closed for use for several years due to safety issues, sitting empty and in decay with uncertain plans for its future;

Whereas, The D-Building elevator continues to remain closed since January 2023 due to flooding and electrical issues, creating physical access barriers to marginalized communities needing elevators for mobility assistance, requiring them to travel across the quad to an alternative elevator in an adjacent building;

Whereas, DGS hired multiple independent consultants to “close out” college legacy projects, but as of the last update⁴ from the November 14, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting and despite advocacy of campus leadership, College of Alameda still has 22 outstanding tasks yet to be completed which include HVAC, plumbing, lighting, roof leaks, and ceiling repairs, affecting our ability to serve students and further marginalizing those who come to campus seeking a safe learning environment or access crucial services;

Whereas, The PCCD Facilities Master Plan⁵ has not been updated since 2018 and District Facilities Committee minutes are missing for all but three meetings since the start of 2022, leading to a lack of consistent openness and transparency essential to effective participatory governance and collegial communication;

Resolved, That the College of Alameda Academic Senate joins the Laney College Faculty Senate⁶ in their request for an investigation and audit into the state of elevators and fire alarms districtwide, including the total amount of funds that have been expended on these projects, an accounting of completed repairs, and a clear picture of the problems that remain;

Be it further resolved, That the College of Alameda Academic Senate declares no confidence in DGS leadership, including Interim Vice Chancellor Atheria Smith, due to

⁴[https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/CXG6JR153288/\\$file/11%2014%2023%20DGS%20Project%20Update.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/CXG6JR153288/$file/11%2014%2023%20DGS%20Project%20Update.pdf)

⁵https://f.hubspotusercontent00.net/hubfs/6398505/Approved_DistrictWide2017FTMP_03132018.pdf

⁶<https://laney.edu/faculty-senate/wp-content/uploads/sites/77/2024/02/Vote-of-No-Confidence-in-District-General-Services.pdf>

the lack of collegial consultation, lack of planning, inadequate and misleading communication and perceived ongoing mismanagement of projects that are central to OSHA and ADA compliance, our community's health and safety and student success.