

March 24, 2026

Dear President Pérez

On behalf of the College of San Mateo Academic Senate, we are writing to request information regarding the CSM administration's response to the current budget shortfall. While the administration has held forums and shared information on opening day, surveys from faculty at division meetings reveal that many faculty remain confused and anxious about governance and decision-making in response to the crisis. We are deeply concerned that the response is creating a climate of mistrust and negatively impacting instruction, student services, and faculty and staff morale.

While the surveys show a wide range of concerns, members of the Senate executive committee met with a group of faculty and identified the most significant common themes and questions in the feedback:

- What specific decisions were made that led to the budget crisis for CSM?
- What have you and other campus leaders done to advocate for CSM at the District level?
- Why is the District not supporting CSM, leading to cuts to instruction and services?
- What can we do to ensure that, going forward, faculty are fully involved in discussions and decision-making about decisions such as class cuts rather than receiving information after the decisions have been made?

We would like to play a positive role in building a trustful relationship with district and college administration. Towards that goal, we request that you attend a future Academic Senate meeting to directly address the concerns noted above. Despite these concerns, the Academic Senate wants to reaffirm our goal of partnership with administration and our ongoing commitment to CSM's vision and values.