

It is clear based on the many discussions, comments and personal stories I have heard over the last several weeks that there are broad, systemic issues on this campus that must be addressed regarding gender equity and campus climate. These are issues that affect all of us - staff, faculty and students. These are challenges that cannot be addressed overnight and will require hard work, commitment and patience. I am dedicated to doing everything in my authority to support and move forward this work.

While I cannot comment on any specific issue or accusation - there are processes we must follow and are following - I can share with you that broader work around gender equity is taking place. I will be following up in the next few days with a campus message about these efforts.

I understand there was further discussion at the Academic Senate Meeting about the article that was published in the News-Press this weekend. I am also disappointed and deeply concerned about the serious errors that were included in that article. I wish to clarify the steps the college has taken to address this. A campus email was sent on Sunday, May 6 informing the college (staff, faculty and students) of the message that was immediately sent to the News-Press requesting a retraction and our disappointment that no effort was made to contact SBCC officials for comment, confirmation or clarification about our administrative procedures or policies. In the subsequent days, the News-Press has been unresponsive to emails and phone messages. On Wednesday, May 9, a letter to the editor was submitted that further clarifies our position. We have requested that this letter be published (a copy of the letter is included below). Lastly, we have consulted with SBCC legal counsel on options available to us.

Below is a letter to the editor that has been submitted that further corrects errors that were published in the May 6 article:

Dear Editor:

I am writing to correct several serious errors in a May 6, 2018, article entitled "SBCC professor solicits money with school email."

SBCC's Administrative Procedure 3720 governs the usage of SBCC's computer and network. AP 3720 says that SBCC's computer resources "should not be used for personal activities not related to District functions, except in a purely incidental manner."

SBCC's past practice under AP 3720, in its current form and in prior versions, has permitted students and employees to use SBCC's email system to ask colleagues to make donations for various reasons. Those reasons include supporting college programs, and financially assisting students and staff in times of crisis, like when facing serious illnesses and funeral expenses.

The GoFundMe campaign discussed in the article was consistent with the actual language of AP 3720 and SBCC's practice: the campaign related to a District function — raising funds for a professor who was threatened with a lawsuit because of comments she made pertaining to an SBCC faculty colloquium — and assisted and supported her when she was faced with needing to pay significant legal fees.

As the College Spokesperson, I am always available to provide comment or clarification about an article being written. It is unfortunate that, in this instance, the reporter did not contact me. The College and I wish to continue to have a positive relationship with all of our local media partners.

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