



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
Professionals

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 18, 2020

Joanne Waddell  
President  
Los Angeles College Faculty Guild,  
Local 1521, CFT, AFT, AFL-CIO  
E-Mail: [jwaddell@aft1521.org](mailto:jwaddell@aft1521.org)

Grace Chee  
E-Mail: [gchee99@yahoo.com](mailto:gchee99@yahoo.com)

RE: Election Investigation Complaint

Dear President Waddell & Ms. Chee:

This is to inform you that AFT has received a request to investigate certain alleged actions taken by Local 1521 and its elections committee and to request a formal response from the Local. The actions in question relate to the most recent election held for the position of president of the West LA College Chapter of Local 1521. A copy of the request is attached. AFT requests that Local 1521 respond to the allegations in the request for investigation.

The basis for AFT's authority to investigate an internal election of a local affiliate is set forth in Article VI, § 14(b) of the AFT Constitution. That section allows the AFT president, upon receipt of a bona fide complaint by one or more members, to request that the AFT Executive Council initiate a formal investigation. The first step in AFT's consideration of such requests is to conduct a preliminary investigation of the merits. At this stage, our goal is to determine whether there are sufficient unresolved material issues regarding the request to warrant forwarding the matter to the AFT Executive Council for a full investigation and hearing.

As part of the preliminary investigation, we will review the request itself and Local 1521's response to the request. Local 1521's response should address each of the allegations made by the complainant; the response should be focused on the issues raised by Ms. Chee and it should plead any and all defenses with specificity and with reference to any and all relevant provisions in the local's constitution and its election rules.

To the extent that there are documents which are relevant to the allegations, those should be included in the local's response to the enclosed request for investigation. Such documents may include, and may not be limited to, the Local's Constitution, election rules, and other relevant election-related documents.

Article IV, § 5 of the AFT Constitution states that local elections must be conducted in a manner “consistent with the standards for such elections developed under Title IV of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA).” Such standards hold that elections for union offices are presumed valid until demonstrated otherwise after a full and fair investigation. Therefore, I hereby instruct Local 1521 to await the results of this investigation before proceeding to re-run the election for the presidency of the West LA College Chapter of Local 1521.

The local’s response to Ms. Chee’s request for investigation should be submitted to the AFT by no later than **COB on Friday, July 3, 2020** and a copy should simultaneously be served upon Ms. Chee at the e-mail address listed above.

Thank you for your prompt and thorough attention to this matter.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorretta Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Dr. Lorretta Johnson  
Secretary-Treasurer

LJ : DS : SL  
Enclosure (1)

cc: Jeff Freitas, AFT VP & California Federation of Teachers President  
Randi Weingarten, AFT President  
Mark Richard, Office of the President, AFT  
Jessica Smith, Office of the President, AFT  
Tish Olshefski, Office of the Secretary-Treasurer, AFT  
Mark Bostic, Organization & Fields Services, AFT  
Ramiro Hernandez, AFT Western Regional Office, AFT  
David Strom, AFT General Counsel