

June 15, 2020,

Dear President Randi Weingarten and Secretary Treasurer Loretta Johnson,

Please take immediate action to restore the elections for the West LA College Chapter, of the LA College Faculty Guild, AFT1521, the results of which were certified by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) on May 27, 2020.

The Elections Committee Chair Iris Zelaya is acting beyond her authority, jurisdiction and power (supported by 1521 President Joanne Waddell), in declaring the West chapter president position vacant, then installing an interim chapter president (someone who did not win an election as president). These actions are unconstitutional and illegal under AFT1521 bylaws, the national constitution, and are in violation of Title IV of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA).

AFT1521 bylaws 6.01 Election of Officers, states that “the term of office shall be two years, commencing June 1 following the election.”

- Election #1 April 30, 2020: 50 (Grace Chee) vs. 32 (Tim) vs. 27 (Ken) (Grace wins by 18 votes, which is only 6 shy of a 50% +1 majority required to avoid a runoff)
- Election #2 (Runoff) May 27, 2020: 77 (Grace Chee) vs. 67 (Tim) (Grace Wins, this time by 10 votes, certified by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) Case No: 01 20 0000 4794
- May 28, 2020 - AAA certified results, which was posted on the Guild website. Olga distributed via email, on May 28, 2020.

http://www.aft1521.org/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&HomeID=196466&page=About20Us

AFT1521 bylaws Bylaws 6.03 declare that vacancies can only happen, “as a result of death, resignation, or recall.” I have not died, resigned nor been recalled.

Moreover, the election committee has engaged in extremely secretive processes. In Ms. Waddell’s June 8, 2020 letter (sent by Buck Stapleton) she mentions that a protest was filed with the Elections Committee on June 3, 2020. Yet I had not been informed within the timeline of 5-business days as stipulated in the elections code, nor was I informed of the nature of the protest. West faculty also asked repeatedly for full disclosure, but the Guild has curiously remained silent, until the elections committee report was distributed with the agenda tonight. It includes accusations, for which there is no evidence of actual violations. Also, protests against my opponents were curiously omitted.

Within your scope as the president of the AFT, you must ensure the protection and preservation of a free, fair, and open democratic process to elect our leaders, and restore democracy to the West LA College Chapter. As one of our members stated, “If the Elections Committee and Executive Board are vested with *carte blanche* authority to overturn an election, against the wishes of the voters, then democracy has failed, and we are all the poorer for it.”

Please take action immediately and order any decisions/recommendations made by the elections committee chair null and void.

Thank you for your attention. Please see other documents sent to the Western Regional Director Ramiro Hernandez and Legal Department David Strom.

Grace Chee
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LA College Faculty Guild AFT1521
West-LACCD District Academic Senator
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I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again. ~William Penn~

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