



# Chancellor's Office

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Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook

To: Dr. Miriam Golbert, Co-Chair Academic Staffing Committee  
Dr. Omar Torres, Co-Chair Academic Staffing Committee

Cc: Mr. David Andrus, Academic Senate President  
Dr. Rian Medlin, Vice President of Human Resources

From: Dr. Dianne Van Hook, Chancellor

Re: Additional Feedback on Recommendations from the Academic Staffing Committee

Date: April 4, 2024

I continue to be grateful for the hard work that the Academic Staffing Committee has demonstrated in recommending ranked positions for going forward with future full-time faculty hires via your memo dated November 22, 2023. I also want to thank you, Miriam and Omar, for taking the time to meet with me on March 27, 2024 to discuss recent conversations that were held with the Academic Staffing Committee regarding the need to address the Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork Coordinator (Fall 2023) position.

Per my February 8, 2024 memo, I recommended to the Board of Trustees the hiring of two strongly recommended positions:

- Counseling (Ujima) (replacement for Jonathan Ng)
- Counseling (STEM/Latinx) (new)

I recently followed with my March 13, 2024 memo, where I recommended to the Board of Trustees that we hire the first listed position below from the urgent list and the second position from the strongly recommended list:

- Ethnic Studies (Chicano Studies)(new)
- Ethnic Studies (African American Studies)(new)

I am now prepared to present **one more recommendation** for hiring consideration by the Board at their April 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting with the intent to revisit additional recommendations, once we have more information from the Governor's May Revise on the state of the California budget.

## **Background Context**

Based on what we know as of 4/4/2024, our existing full-time faculty obligation number (FON) for fall 2024 is 219.7, which takes into account thirteen anticipated faculty members retiring in June 2024. The Fall 2024 Advance FON from the State is 189.7, which means we are expected to be 30 FTEF above our expected FON. This could change if additional full-time faculty choose to take the SERP.

In my prior two memos, I have noted that the Legislative Analyst's Office has reported that with the recent receipt of various postponed tax payments this past October 2023, it is now estimated that 2022-23 revenues will be \$26 billion below the Budget Act projections. This budgetary weakness is likely to carry into this 2023-24 fiscal year and next. Overall, the state's updated revenue outlook anticipates collections to come in \$58 billion below Budget Act projections across 2022-23 to 2024-25.

During our March 27, 2024 meeting, you both made me aware of additional conversations that were held with the Academic Staffing Committee regarding the need to fill the Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork Coordinator (Fall 2023) position more quickly. I appreciate hearing about the conversations that you both held with the committee, learning about the limited information that was available to the committee at the time of the presentation for the fieldwork coordinator, where the timeline for hiring the fieldwork coordinator position was unknown at that moment and therefore contributed to a lower ranking, resulting in placement on the Recommended List. Since that time, based on the prescribed timeline noted by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), the committee learned from our recently hired Occupational Therapy Assistant Faculty Director that the college would be submitting its Candidacy Application to ACOTE before the end of the Fall 2024 semester. Per ACOTE, we are required to hire the Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork Coordinator position in advance of the Candidacy Application submission, similar to our process for the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Therefore, the Academic Staffing Committee recommended to you both that this position be hired at the earliest possible moment.

### **So What Are Our Next Steps?**

Given this context and noted timeline, I am recommending that we begin the hiring process by placing the **Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork Coordinator (Fall 2023)** position on the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board Agenda for the Board's consideration. By moving forward in this way, we can prepare for and be ready to meet the requirements for consideration by ACOTE as we submit our Candidacy Application before the end of the Fall 2024 semester.

Thank you for your guidance and continued leadership as we continue to expand opportunities for our students in these relevant and critical healthcare sectors. As I indicated in the memos dated 2/8/24 and 3/13/24, I welcome the opportunity to meet the Academic Staffing Committee later this Spring 2024 to engage in a conversation to discuss potential additional future hires as more information on state revenue projections continues to unfold.

Thank you!

*Dianne*

**Dr. Dianne Van Hook**

**Chancellor**

**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS/Santa Clarita Community College District**

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