

Chabot-Las Positas Faculty Association

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2026

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

President: HEIKE GECOX (*Counseling, Student Services—Las Positas College*)

Statement: I have been an employee and faculty member at Las Positas College for 20 years as a counselor and instructor. For the last 10 years I have had the honor of serving on the FA Executive Board. During my tenure on the Executive Board, I have had the privilege to hold various positions, including Membership Representative, Grievance Officer and currently am LPC's Vice President.

I have served on negotiation teams for the last two contracts, resulting in higher pay and improved working conditions for our full-time and part-time faculty across the district. It has been a privilege to serve in these positions on the FA Executive Board and I would consider it an honor if I can continue to do so as your FA President. As your president I will make it my mission to keep improving our contract for all faculty members at Chabot and Las Positas College. Thank you for your consideration.

Heike Gecox

Chabot College Vice President: JEFF DROUIN (*Health, Kinesiology & Athletics—Chabot College*)

Statement: I have had the honor of serving as an Executive Officer of the Chabot-Las Positas Faculty Association for the past 10 years, first as the Chabot College Grievance Officer and the past six years as the Vice President for Chabot College. In that time, I have had the opportunity to grow as a faculty member serving on campus and districtwide committees, the collective bargaining agreement negotiating team and as a representative of faculty interests. I believe that a strong Faculty Association is the key to having a strong faculty voice, a competitive contract, and working conditions that are fair and equitable. I have been honored to serve you as vice president for the last six years and I would be proud to represent the faculty of Chabot College for another term. Thank you.

Jeff Drouin

Las Positas College Vice President: DAVID POWERS (*Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics—Las Positas College*)

Statement: I have been a faculty member at LPC for approximately seventeen years. The first nine part time, and the last 8 eight full time. I currently serve as math faculty, professional development chair and advise the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. For the last five years I have served on the Mid-Alameda County Consortium of adult education schools basic skills work group as an LPC representative. I have also done outreach to local schools on behalf of the math department. If given the opportunity to be a part of the FA, I hope to contribute my time and efforts in making a difference for the FA and the campus community.

David Powers

Membership Chabot College: JEROME MANOS (*Counseling, Special Programs—*

Chabot College)

Statement: I have had the pleasure of working at Chabot College for over 13 years, the last seven years as full-time faculty. Our college needs strong leadership and I'm running for membership chair because I feel that I have the leadership and organizational ability to get the job done. Over the last several years working as the Athletic Counselor, I have had the unique opportunity to work collaboratively with many administrators, faculty, and staff, to improve the experiences of our student-athletes, as well as serve on district-wide initiatives, and committees on campus. All of these experiences have allowed me to grow in my profession, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve Chabot College in taking on this important role as membership chair.

Thank you!

Jerome Manos

Membership Las Positas College: NADIYAH TAYLOR (*Business, Social Sciences, & Learning Resources—Las Positas College*)

Statement: I have had the pleasure of being the Membership Chair for Las Positas since 2017. I am running for my 4th term and would consider it an honor to continue in this position. I have been at Las Positas since 2009. I have served on the Program Review committee as chair for the last two years, IPEC for two years, the President's Advisory Council for Race and Equity for two years, and as a Guided Pathways Student Success Team Lead in 23-24. In the past I was the FA representative to the Program Review Committee. As Membership Chair I work in coordination with Chabot's Membership Chair and the other board members to ensure that your voices are heard. During my years 14 at LPC, I've had the chance to interact with faculty, both part-time and full-time, across several disciplines, giving me a wide perspective of the happenings at LPC. I have an interactive style that supports membership recruitment to both current and new faculty. I look forward to ongoing support to our campus community by continuing in this important role. Thank you.

Nadiyah Taylor

Faculty At Large Representative Chabot College: CYNTHIA GORDON DA CRUZ (*Office of Institutional Research—Chabot College*)

Statement: I am running for the Chabot College position of At-Large Representative for the Faculty Association. I have been at Chabot College for almost six years, working in the role of Faculty Coordinator of Institutional Research. In this role, my aim is to provide research and data that will support student success and equity, as well as a work environment conducive to equity, health, and fulfillment for employees in all roles. I have been serving as the At-Large FA representative this past year. I am or have been active in many campus committees over the past six years (e.g., PAR, PRAC, CEMC, OAC, and SASE). I want to continue my service to the Faculty Association because I have long believed in the strong power that organized people have to bring about equitable working conditions. This belief was instilled in me by my parents; my father was active in the union at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. My belief in the power of unions was further solidified in graduate school when I studied community organizing. I'll always remember one conversation in which I asked a mentor, "How did you decide whether to go into higher education or community organizing?" He responded, "Why do you have to decide? Be an organizer IN higher education." I'll never forget that advice. As your at-Large representative, this would be my goal. Listen to the needs and voices of diverse faculty members, and utilize my role on the union executive board to be a community organizer for positive change. Prior to Chabot College, I worked in multiple areas of higher education: student affairs, leadership development, advising multicultural and student advocacy groups, teaching, and research. When I was teaching faculty, I taught courses such as Justice, Community and

Leadership; Leadership Development; Educational Inequality; College Student Development; and graduate classes in Research Methods and Action Research. As your at-large representative, I would bring these wide-ranging experiences to bear in advocating for the diverse needs of faculty at Chabot. Thank you

Cynthia Gordon da Cruz

Faculty At Large Representative Las Positas College: CRAIG KUTIL—
(Academic Services/ Articulation—Las Positas College)

Statement: I have a strong background in community college education and think I have been an effective advocate for faculty at Las Positas College, serving in the At-Large position for LPC for the last four years. I have worked at Las Positas College as a full-time mathematics professor, and now articulation officer, since 2006 and served on multiple committees including the Curriculum Committee since 2013, serving as Curriculum Chair for five years, and on the Academic Senate as Secretary, Parliamentarian, Treasurer, and Vice-President. I also served as the mathematics department coordinator for two years. Other practical experience includes serving on district-wide committees such as ESS for six years, FFC for one year, and the SCFF Proposal Review Subcommittee. Thank you.

Craig Kutil

Part Time Representative Chabot College: KELSEY PAIZ —(Arts, Media & Communication—Chabot College)

Statement: I'm Kelsey Paiz and I have been serving you as your part-time representative on the FA since July 2022. During that time, I have worked to protect the rights of many part-time faculty with issues related to salary placement, seniority and class assignments, and access to health care. I have been a listening ear to anyone who needed to be heard. Over the fall and winter of 2023, I helped mold the new MOU on Part-Time Health Care to better serve you and get rid of unnecessary steps in the process. I am hoping to host FLEX workshops about important topics that impact the rights of part-time faculty in the coming semesters. Outside of my work as the FA, I am also a part-time instructor in Communication Studies and the Assistant Director of the Forensics team. I previously served as the part-time representative on Faculty Senate and was the recipient of the Excellence in Part-Time Service award in 2021. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve this vital community of faculty. Thank you.

Kelsey Paiz

Part Time Representative Las Positas College: JEFFREY JUDD—(Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics—Las Positas College)

Statement: I have been a part-time faculty member at Las Positas College in Biology for over twenty years. I feel I have a good understanding of the needs of the part-time faculty members and how we fit into the college community. I was appointed to the position of Part-Time Representative this year and look forward to serving as a voice for the part-time faculty and their concerns on the E-board going forward. I have also had the honor to serve on the Academic Senate at LPC as one of the part-time faculty representatives for several years which gives me insight in how the colleges and district are run and how that might affect the Part-time faculty. I have served on several committees at Positas college: one of the Academic Senate representatives on the district technology committee, chairing and participating in ad Hoc committees on student retention and part-time faculty equity. I like to be involved in the campus community and have been a co-adviser to student run organizations, participated in BioBliz and

the STEM poster session, both programs designed to build a larger community on campus and to interface with the community at large outside of campus. I am also one of the leads of the wing of Caring Campus that focuses on student persistence, advocating for engagement strategies that lead to better student retention as well as faculty satisfaction. Being your representative on the E-board allows me to champion the needs of the part-time faculty, and with the current legislative conversations surrounding building a more equitable work structure, health care and possibly pay scales for Part-time faculty. Thank you

Jeffrey Judd