

Hey Cal Poly Humboldt!

Tomorrow we are going to talk about tough stuff. We are going to address a number of raised concerns (COVID-19 Related Policies, ADA Consultation, and Parking Enforcement Policies), and they are, each and all, complex and potentially emotionally charged topics that we, as a community, have potentially differing takes on. In anticipation of these hard but important conversations, I would like to thank you all in advance for your rich, thoughtful, and gracious engagement with the topics at hand and with each other. Let's express our positions, Let's collaboratively help each other to remember and adhere to our shared [norms and expectations](#), to kindly reach out to each other when we find we are acting outside of those norms, and to be as generously open to each other's respective points of view as we can.

Having conversations like this successfully helps us to prove to ourselves and each other that we can navigate shared governance in a manner that is simultaneously materially beneficial and not interpersonally harmful (a point that I think is genuinely at question to some). While I'm sure it sounds corny, I truly believe that working through these conversations will help us to get better at doing this work together. We need to flex the muscles of shared governance in order to make sure that they work, that they are strong, and that we know how to address messy problems when they rear their ugly heads. We need to hone our praxis of teasing out potentiality from dissensus, and joining in a shared admission of complexity.

In anticipation of the dissensus before us, I'd invite us to please consider that all of us (students, staff, faculty, administrators, and related community members) are human beings who have committed our lives to the field of education, broadly, and Cal Poly Humboldt, specifically. We are people who care about this community and want its members to thrive and be successful in their academic and ontological endeavors. As such, I'd further ask that we acknowledge and maintain care for each other's humanity in spite of our disagreements. Let's take a look at these thorny questions with the hope of addressing and improving the issues that drive them, while simultaneously, working to mutually ensure that we walk out of the room feeling ok about ourselves and each other, so that we can all return to our respective labs, offices, and classrooms on Wednesday ready to confront this work, together, again.

This is especially important as there is a lot of work for us to do together. I am confident that we are more than equal to the task, but we'll need each other's support along the way.

Let's be excellent to each other.

jim