

Interview with Tim Brice

Tim has been with the Peralta district for 15 years and at Merritt since 1997

“Before Dr. Adams, there was an atmosphere of strife between teachers and administration. This was the tone at the meetings I attended. Classified staff and faculty have had their own issues as well.”

“Dr. Adams came in and gathered us around a goal of working for the good of the most important thing here – the college students. Because where we (custodians) work, we see a lot. We know our jobs, so as far as working with faculty, we don’t do that so much.”

“Now, being part of the shared governance process (on the Classified Senate), I now understand I have a voice and an ear. Before serving on Classified Senate, I didn’t know... (Tim- Please fill this in for me – I don’t know how you meant to end this sentence)”

“In the early ‘90s, people were discouraged because when I started going (to Senate), I had to be a conduit between the custodians and other staff. Otherwise, the only times I felt informed was when we received a grievance or during contract negotiation times.”

“We’re still dependent on the person attending meetings (for our information from the college). I get the meeting minutes. We are trying to make individuals and committees more accountable.”

“For custodial, we brought up space heaters and we went to Robert (the storekeeper). He did not get it in a timely manner. We have a budget for custodial staff and that’s it. Custodial has not been heard and treated the same as faculty and staff. We asked for overtime when outside groups come in because we have to do more than work our regular 8-hour day. I brought this up at a Classified Senate meeting and the discussion is in process right now.”

According to Tim:

- Custodians have direct access to Dr. Adams
- Both Dr. Herring and Dr. Wesley came down and met directly with the custodians
- At some point there was a regularly scheduled meeting with Dr. Herring, but as of now – no regular meetings are set up between the President and the custodians

“Now, we are getting information about campus goings-on in a timely manner. This was NOT happening before that. We couldn’t get passwords, etc. on the computer. It’s been really helpful being on Peralta.edu (for one year).”

“The promotion/demotion process is not right. I was not told why I was put on probation. The district HR handled the issue very poorly.”