It is time for us to react. Nearly all Americans are suffering and are rightfully angry, yet their anger is being funneled in the wrong direction. Educators and other public workers are scapegoats, used by politicians who don’t want to compromise or make hard decisions. Their blind adherence to dogma and putting political careers ahead of what is best for the country makes compromise impossible. We know there is no basis in reality to their slogans that portray all public workers as parasites, yet this untruth and more are broadcast to the public every day. It is time to reach out to family, friends and, more importantly, strangers. We need to discuss rationally what really brought us to this new depression. Through compromise we can craft the practical solutions to get out of this mess and build a system that looks out for everybody, not just a tiny percentage of our society.

Three days of workshops and subcommittees brought home the harsh realities we are all facing, but they also provided techniques and practices to counter and ameliorate these realities. From pre-K through the university, things are getting worse every day, but we press on, continuing to give all to our students, our schools and our communities. We care, we sacrifice, and we fight. The public needs to a lifetime truth.

For me, one important point made by the panel keeps coming back to mind. Ordinary Americans have a set of values, a sense of what America really stands for. That needs to be awakened again. SLO DOWN

Frankly, the use of SLOs by WASC/ACCJC, Administration, or any outside body to assess instruction reflects a simplistic, micro-management model which fails to comprehend accountability measures already in place at the community college and the nature of the academic profession. Faculty must do all we can to remain proactive. Improvements cannot wait. We must not attempt to whip educators into shape when we are already good at what we do, but from adequate funding and increased social equity. It is not a simple answer, but it is the truth. Make no mistake we are being lowered into a pot of warm water which may one day boil.

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