The Santa Fe College Senate wishes to support the right of employees to collectively bargain. All democratic countries and institutions welcome the worker’s right to a union, and such should be the case here at Santa Fe College. The Administration, however, currently spends unspecified college funds on a law firm to delay the unionization of adjunct faculty. The Senate disapproves, and we encourage the Administration to respect Shared Governance and discontinue the obstruction.

The purpose of education is to empower people intellectually, financially, and politically, and the spirit of the institution thrives when it works for these ends. The adjunct professors of Santa Fe College make less than a living wage with zero benefits, not even Social Security. The College ought to encourage workers to stand up for their rights, not block them from the pursuit of happiness. The adjuncts are not the problem. The adjuncts are our colleagues, and they were our classmates and our students, and the College should be on their side without equivocation.

Adjunct instructors, like all faculty, are professions with specialized knowledge and advanced degrees. Regardless of degree or status, all employees should be remunerated and respected with utmost dignity. Instead of obstructing the adjunct union, the Administration ought to respect democratic rights and welcome the organization. At an institution of higher learning, educators communicate ideas and debate those ideas freely. Therefore, the Santa Fe College Senate requests the Administration to abjure political tactics that require college funds and practice good civic discussion.

Let educators decide for themselves unimpeded, which will be true respect for the individual.