

the ranger ORG

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The Ranger news outlets, which serve the Alamo Community College District, are laboratory projects of classes in the Journalism Program at San Antonio College. The Ranger is published Mondays except during summer, holidays and examinations.

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The Ranger is a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press and the Texas Community College Journalism Association.

Guest Viewpoints: Faculty, staff, students and community members are welcome to contribute guest viewpoints of up to 450 words. Writers should focus on campus or current events in a critical, persuasive or interpretative style. All viewpoints must be published with a photo portrait of the writer.

Letters Policy: The Ranger invites readers to share views by writing letters to the editor. Space limitations force the paper to limit letters to two double-spaced, typewritten pages. Letters will be edited for spelling, style, grammar, libel and length. Editors reserve the right to deny publication of any letter.

Letters should be emailed to sac-ranger@alamo.edu. Letters also may be brought to the newspaper office in Room 212 of Loftin Student Center, mailed to The Ranger, Journalism Program, San Antonio College, 1819 N. Main Ave., San Antonio TX 78212-3941 or faxed to 210-486-9292.

Letters must be signed and must include the printed name and telephone number. Students should include classification, major, campus and Banner ID. Employees should include title and telephone number. For more information, call 210-486-1773.

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Estefania B. Alonso

Adjuncts aren't end all, be all

Colleges and universities around the state have exponentially increased their adjunct hires and actively shortened contracted positions to decrease overhead.

This progressive shift in focus from valuable and consistent professors and small class sizes to ensuring monetary results is a detriment to the quality of education.

As evidenced by the threat looming over the University of Texas at San Antonio's liberal arts department adjunct faculty, short-term hires with limited contracts do not promote a stable budget.

It's the same story everywhere.

Adjunct faculty are denied job security, health benefits and competitive pay; however, they are expected to fulfill the role and responsibilities of full-time faculty.

The UTSA adjuncts are facing the possibility of a massive cut in their numbers, which in turn means a substantial increase in class sizes.

Alamo Colleges adjuncts — who are often stretched between mul-

multiple campuses just to afford a subsistence lifestyle — are subject to the same surveys, assessments and bureaucracy that are required of full-time faculty.

The idea that district administration thinks overworked adjuncts should have the time, energy or desire to go the extra mile with students on these campuses is either idealistic ignorance or a blatant disregard for the efforts of full-time employees and the quality of education they provide.

Beyond the lack of pay incentive and abuse of time, full-time and part-time adjuncts are subject to the anxiety that comes with lack of job security; how can a teacher offer their entire potential to their classes if they are also worried about having a job next semester?

Developing a sense of loyalty and a consistent relationship with a workplace harbors a sense of community that produces stronger work efforts and encourages professional growth.

The idea that confining adjunct

contracts to a semester reduces overhead is illogical considering the protection against inflation and repeated office labor and processing that hiring nontenured faculty provides.

A small-minded person might suggest that a solution to reduce the number of underpaid and overworked adjuncts is to decrease the number of classes by increasing class sizes.

This oversight would lead to a classroom devoid of meaningful one-on-one instruction with students, as adjuncts are not required to keep offices hours nor are they compensated for them.

It's time to stop running the Alamo Colleges like a service industry, where the lowest-paid employees have the most interaction with students on campus.

If Chancellor Bruce Leslie is committed to whipping the mule, he needs to create positions and allocate funds to hire nontenured faculty rather than supplementing with adjuncts.

Center a model of success

Other departments should follow empowerment center if advocating the Alamo Way.

Even with budget cuts and staff reductions over the past couple of years that hurt services like tutoring or library hours, students can find some comfort knowing a department still offers a multitude of helpful resources for students.

The empowerment center is home to the department of services for women and non-traditional students, or SWANS, and offers services for both students and the community.

The center has three labs dedicated to computer usage, school-related needs and career assistance.

Students can ask for help on basic computer skills, online registration or learning about the right major.

Academic advising is available, in addition to career counseling.

It's essentially a student's dream

in terms of a space where they can get all the help they need to succeed and assemble a plan for the future.

This one location does what a handful of departments at this college do, without the inconvenience of traveling from building to building, department to department.

Why would you want to go anywhere else?

According to its website, services are provided for individuals who need support to succeed in a college environment.

Some of the services include academic skills development, emergency transportation and textbook assistance for qualified participants, child care referrals, parenting support programs, scholarship resources and more. The list goes on.

The center is also home to the Non-Traditional Students Club,

which promotes and provides support and assistance to students.

The department is a prime example of the Alamo Way, which is defined by student success, principle-centered leadership and performance excellence — a slogan that is preached by the chancellor and administration time and again.

Students look for convenience and a sense of welcome, not an assistant or adviser sending them elsewhere because they cannot deal with their problems.

If the Alamo Colleges truly follow their mission statement of empowering our diverse communities for student success, then administrators should take notice of the good work SWANS is doing and follow the model of its successes when working on or developing future support departments.

View letters to the editor at theranger.org.