

Thank you, Mr. President,

I love this college, and I love this faculty, so I am going to speak from the heart and out of my personal knowledge and experience in three roles—spokesperson for the SCC-AAUP, past president of the Faculty Senate, and proud member of the Faculty Assembly of Sinclair Community College for over thirty years.

I wish to make only two points: one about credibility—mine, and the other about dignity—ours.

Regarding my credibility, those of you who know me and/or have read my writing over the years in the *Faculty Forum* and recently in the newsletter of SCC-AAUP know that I would not affiliate myself with an organization, whether it were the Senate or the AAUP, that did not reflect my integrity and intelligence.

Regarding our dignity, we are all equally committed to the best interests of the faculty of this college because we are the college. The methods of the Senate and the AAUP may be different, but the goal is the same.

Interestingly enough, those of us who have worked on behalf of faculty for awhile discovered some years ago that faculty senates and faculty unions co-exist, cooperate, and collaborate very well on many college campuses.

This was the discovery I made in 1982 when I was president of the Senate and formed the Ohio Faculty Senate Network, which consisted of the presidents and vice presidents of the faculty senates of the majority of the community colleges in Ohio.

Frankly, at the time, we needed a support group because we were feeling rather impotent. We found that frequently in our dealings with the administration, we were simply a powerful conscience confronting conscienceless power. We even decided to explore the option of collective bargaining because we were tired of collective begging, but we did not pursue the option at that time.

Years later another initiative was effectively thwarted because the administration gave the faculty substantial raises that year; however, soon it was back to business as usual. Then ensued a series of agreements to get us into the top tier of community colleges in the state, but we made it only to fourth place behind Cuyahoga, Lakeland, and Lorain. Nevertheless, we were always respectful in our dealings with the administration, and faculty were always respectful of one another, taking each other seriously or humorously depending on the situation.

And trust me, when one is feeling impotent, one appreciates a little humor. In fact, we do not have to be pro-Senate and anti-union. That is like being pro-marriage and anti-sex. We can have both, and some of us believe having both will make us even happier than we are now. However, that issue is for all of us to decide. I believe we can do it with the dignity and civility that befits our august body because we are the Faculty Assembly of Sinclair Community College.