

**MINUTES
OF THE
ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING**

**HELD IN THE STAFF LOUNGE
APRIL 8, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Halligan, Jose Villalobos, Jerome Evans, Michael Odanaka, Marjeritta Phillips, Shirley Thomas, Darwin Smith, Leonard Clark, Shemiran Lazar, Art Flemming , Annaruth Garcia, Thomas Norton, Estina Pratt, Saul Panski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ahmad Manzoor, Fred Lamm, Eugene Benson, Pamela West

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: I. Guajardo, R. Shabazz, Rachele Sasser, Keith Curry,
Dr. Susan Dever

VISITORS PRESENT: Carmela Aguilar, Toni Wasserberger, Aurora Cortez-Perez, David Maruyama, Fazal Aasi

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m., by Saul Panski

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved; Halligan/ Evans (moved, seconded).

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of 3.18.08 were amended to include participation of S. Thomas and Dr. Smith. The corrected Minutes were approved; Villalobos/ Evans (moved, seconded).

IV. REPORTS

President's Report

1. The El Camino College Senate will meet at the Compton Center on Tuesday, April 20th, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., in our Board Room. Logistics are still being worked out. Compton faculty were encouraged to attend and consider providing ECC Senators with a tour of the campus, if requested.
2. An effort is being undertaken to provide for teleconferencing of the subsequent ECC Senate meeting, on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Pete Marcoux, ECC Senate, is coordinating the logistics.
3. Smith interjected that it is clear to him that the more Compton faculty work with and interact with our colleagues in Torrance, the more influence the Center and its needs

seems to have. He cited the presence of Compton' s representatives to the ECC Senate on the occasion of its special meeting, as an example.

4. The Plenary will take place from April 15-17th, in San Francisco and D. Smith is our Voting Delegate. It was noted that Vanessa Haynes would also be attending. Jose Villalobos asked if he might attend as well and the body approved this request, provided administrative approval could be obtained.

5. The President thanked those faculty members who had volunteered to serve on faculty hiring committees, with committees already underway—or about to commence—for nursing, financial aid counseling, anatomy/physiology, and physical education/coaching.

6. The President indicated that all incumbent Senators/Council Members have been reappointed for 2010-2011 and that April 9th was the final date for nominations for the two adjunct and two at-large full time slots. He added that Senators Flemming, Smith, Norton, and Evans would be automatically re-elected unless additional adjunct and full time faculty indicate a desire to serve. He added that officers for 2010-2011 will be elected by the newly seated Senate, at the last meeting in May (May 20th).

7. Resolutions for Retirees would be given to recipients at the Senate meeting of Thursday, May 6th. Faculty in the divisions where someone was retiring were urged to turn out to show their appreciation for their retiring colleague. Leonard would speak to Don Roach, and Tom to Chelvi Subramaniam, to make sure that both the retirees and their colleagues would be present. Phillips indicated that she and others were working on a celebration for our retirees. The President urged her to contact the Federation, which had underwritten retirement events before and even provided retirees with a small token of appreciation.

8. There was a brief discussion about the solvency of PERS and STRS. It was noted by Maruyama that STRS is in such fiscal straits that it would need to ask the Legislature to increase active faculty member deductions. PERS was also certain to require increased contribution levels by employees. Maruyama further noted that there was even some concern that State guarantees to support the fiscal solvency of both systems might become problematical. It was added that most faculty members do not qualify for Social Security and STRS-sponsored longevity bonuses for thirty plus years of service were being phased out as well.

Consultative Council Representative

No report.

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Evans commended the Senate leadership for its forthright behavior and eloquence at the recent Special Meeting of the ECC Senate.

V. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** None.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

ASCCC Plenary Session Proposed Resolution: Resolution of No-Confidence in ACCJC Leadership

Panski reminded the group that Compton would have its own vote at the upcoming Spring Plenary of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) where a resolution expressing no confidence in the leadership of the ACCJC would be considered. He added that the ECC Senate had met in special session and approved its delegate voting in support of the proposed resolution.

Smith indicated that the draft resolution had been approved at three of the four state-wide areas meetings prior to the Plenary itself.

Members present questioned what good passage of such a resolution would do. Halligan indicated that there was an urgent need to consider accreditation alternatives other than the Commission.

Smith indicated that the resolution had been developing for some time and expressed the consternation of Senate leaders in dealing with the ACCJC's Executive Director, Dr. Beno. The resolution, he added, would hopefully persuade WASC that the Executive Director was "too hot to handle" and had become a liability. This pressure would hopefully come to WASC from the proposed recipients of the resolution, including the accreditation oversight agency, the DOE, and the Executive Branch. Smith added that one of the major criticisms of the Commission was that it was not modeling its own dicta and policies.

Flemming added that an example of not following its own guidelines had been the way the Commission summarily placed Compton on show cause and terminated accreditation just a few months later, totally bypassing the warning and probation phases set forth in the agency's guidelines. Moreover, this action was taken without the utilization of a full visiting team.

Smith added that there was consternation with the ACCJC because it had failed to include significant numbers of faculty in visiting teams, even though many had expressed an interest in serving.

Panski added that consternation with the Commission had been compounded by the way it had treated Chancellor Scott, when he sought to address the body on recommendations of the Consultation Council for enhancing Commission interfacing with California community colleges. A follow-up letter summarily seemed to dismiss all of the Council's concerns.

Maruyama added that part of the problem was that the Commission did not operate under the purview of the Brown Act and it was impossible to know what was discussed in closed Commission meetings since there are no published minutes.

Phillips expressed her consternation that the Commission now seemed to be after the Peralta District and was surprised that personal lawsuits had not been filed against Commission officials, who are not accountable to anybody.

Flemming pointed out that 112 of the 140 institutions affiliated with the ACCJC are the California community colleges and that their clear, state-wide displeasure with the Commission could not be ignored.

Panski indicated that the resolution was being introduced in San Francisco by a member whose institution had just received full accreditation. He added that he thought the appointment of Martha J. Kanter as Undersecretary of Education might have a positive impact in tempering the actions of the Commissions, particularly since she was a California community college administrator and Vice Chancellor in the Systems Office. Pratt indicated that perhaps Arne Duncan would also play a positive role in the matter.

Halligan expressed his consternation that no one had risen to defend Compton when it was under attack but now, after our demise, there seemed to be a sense of rising anger state-wide, the "beast" seems to have been awakened. The Commission, he indicated, had deviated from its historical role to protect and foster institutions to a punitive one.

Odanaka expressed his continued displeasure at the failure of state-wide organizations and entities to fight for Compton when it was in dire straits with the Commission as well.

Maruyama stated that he would be going to Vietnam as part of a Fulbright Scholarship Program and that the Vietnamese were interested in establishing an oversight agency like the Commission, an action he had mixed feelings about given the actions of the ACCJC in recent years.

It was pointed out that the vote in Sacramento would be a mass, voice-vote and that colleges would not be singled out as voting "aye" or "nay."

Norton called for the question.

It was moved by Halligan/ seconded by Norton that the Compton delegate to the Plenary be instructed to vote in favor of the resolution expressing no-confidence in the leadership of the ACCJC. *The body approved the resolution by acclamation.*

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn by Phillips was seconded by Villalobos. Adjourned @ 2:08

