

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Business 144

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING

11:15 am – 12:35 pm

Minutes –May 25, 2017

Members Present:

Terrin Adair-Lynch, Nicki Backlar, Chuck Brinkman, Susan Caggiano, Tom Chen, Robin Daniels, Abbas Dehkhoda, Timothy Dong, Amy Dworsky, Gail Edinger, Tracey Ellis, Andrew Espinosa, Marissa Gee, Carlson Hatton, Matthew Hotsinpillar, Dan Hurley, Alexander Ibaraki, Siel Ju, Judy Marasco, Mario Martinez, Catherine Matheson, Kym McBride, Colleen McGraw, Kevin Menton, Walter Meyer, Robin Mitchell, Mitra Moassessi, Craig Mohr, Diana Moreno, Peter Morse, Sehat Nauli, Jim Pacchioli, Tom Peters, Bill Price, Michael Schwartz, Jacki Scott, Heather Smith, Howard Stahl, Alicia Villalpando, Carol Womack

Members Excused:

Allison Brown, Fran Chandler, George Davison, Stanley Hecht, Nick Pernisco, Elaine Roque, Audrey Sandoval, Michael Strathearn

Members Absent:

Diane Arieff, Espy Bolivar-Owen, Roxanne Captor, Brandon Ceballos, Lin-San Chou, Steve Contarsy, Sheila Cordova, Judith Douglas, Keith Fiddmont, Blue Fier, Nicholas Fox, Gabriel Gartner, Gustavo Gonzales, Aileen Huang, Gloria Lopez, Cathi Miller, Tim Pierce,, Chau Tran, Nathaniel Trives, Keiko Tsurumi, Jonathan Wang, Ted Wilkinson

Guests:

Sara Boosheri

The meeting was called to order at 11:24 am, and there was a quorum present.

I. Approval of Minutes, [May 11, 2017](#)

- Carol Womack moved to approve the minutes. Unanimously approved.

II. Approval of Reassigned Time for Summer and Fall 2017

- The Executive Committee recommended that the Representative Assembly approve the following reassigned time for Summer 2017 and Fall 2017 (see below). Unanimously approved.

	Su 2017	Fall 2017
President	5 LHE	1.0
Vice President		0.6
Chief Negotiator		0.6
Treasurer		0.1
Grievance Chair		0.4
Political Director		0.4
Government Relations		0.3
Editor		0.2
Part-time Chair		0.2
Recording Secretary		0.2
Public Relations		0.2

III. President's Report

- Peter reported on the Special Board Meeting. The trustees heard from the Collaborative Brain Trust consultants regarding the strategic planning process and results. Board members hoped the initiatives would be more aspirational (which has been echoed among other areas of the college). Ex-CCC Chancellor Brice Harris responded that no other college has aspired to close the achievement gap between different groups of students, so he thought that alone was strong evidence of inspired thinking.
- The trustees continued a discussion of board budget objectives and principles. There was no public notice of a new objective that appeared on a [handout](#) given just to board members. No one in the audience (including Vice President Isomoto and Chief Business Officer Bonvenuto) had seen the document. No discussion about the rationale for the objective was given, and earlier Brice Harris noted that although SMC is on the high end of employee expenditures when looking across the state (85-87% is the average), there are complex reasons as to why any given college has a certain percentage. The choice of 85% has no basis in reason:
 - i. Making employee costs 85% implies other costs increase by 50% to become 15% of the budget, rather than the earlier 10%.
 - ii. If the numerical amount of other costs is reduced (by becoming more cost effective, energy efficient, spending less on external contracts) and if the expenditures on employees stays fixed, the PERCENTAGE of the expenditures going to employees goes up. That is not inherently bad.
 - iii. The objective has nothing to do with containing overall expenditures; otherwise they could have framed it that way. It is a pointed attack on employees.

- iv. It also says nothing about how employee expenditures are split between the 3 groups: faculty, classified and managers.
- v. The trustees also passed a principle, proposed by Trustee Quiñones-Perez, directing the board to “Seek to increase the ratio of full-time faculty.” It passed 4-3 (Yeas, Quiñones-Perez, Greenstein, Walzer, and Jaffe vs. Neas, Rader, Snell, and Aminoff). It was pointed out by some trustees that this appears to be in conflict with their new objective to reduce employee expenditures. We again heard from two trustees, Snell and Jaffe, that they are not sure full-time faculty make that much of a difference, although Jaffe voted for the principle.
- Peter reported on the Budget Committee.
 - The Governor’s May Revise resulted in of \$5.67M more ongoing to the unrestricted fund, and potentially another \$3.58M to the restricted fund, with \$2.62M of that held by the state until June 2019.
 - SMC Budget: Although the state budget revenues increased for SMC, given that we will receive less one-time money than last year, our total revenue from the state is predicted to be about \$970,000 higher than last year (0.57%). The district has included the projection of over 400 fewer non-resident FTES. That is a [huge decrease](#), but the college should be doing everything possible to prevent this.
 - The proposed budget does not include many potential one-time sources because the details of how they will be disbursed is not yet known. And frequently one-time money appears during the year, which is why the college’s [actual fund balance at the end of the year is usually higher than they predicted at the beginning](#).
 - Expenditures are predicted to balloon to \$181.3M (~4% increase).
 - The district has no secret plans to fix the deficit they are predicting: the next choices “are going to hurt.”
 - Faculty again proposed looking into a golden handshake option. The district responded that this option was “Too late, we needed to do it 3 months ago. [We] won’t have enough cash.” The FA responded, “Will it be better 3 months from now?” The district admitted, “No.” The FA raised this approach with trustees back in June 2016.
 - Peter pointed out that SMC has the second highest ratio of administrators to students served according to College Brain Trust data.
- Peter reported on the Strategic Planning Task Force’s meeting in which the group completed the integration of further input into the strategic initiative draft that had been shared earlier with the college community. This new draft will be forwarded by the end of June to Dr. Jeffery and the board with recommendations from the consultants. Mitra Moassessi suggested that there were many questions about how the initiatives will be implemented, who will do the work, and how resources will be distributed.
- Peter commented on the Guided Pathways initiative would require that the FA and the Academic Senate work together to ensure an effective and equitable outcome. He pointed out that this approach entails a systematic change for the college.

IV. Government Relations Report – Howard Stahl

- Howard shared a letter from Governor Brown sent on May 11 to Chancellor Oakley requesting that the system submit a plan by November 2017 to create a new online community college that offers “fully online degree programs.”

V. For the Good of the Order

- None.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Menton
FA Recording Secretary