

District Shared Governance Council (DSGC)
April 20, 2009
Minutes

Members Present: Co-Chairs Patty Dilko and Jing Luan, Linda Allen, Diana Bennett, Connie Beringer, Megan Claire, Lessandro De Sousa, Megan Eznekier, Mauricio Flores Hernandez, Ray Hernandez, Teeka James, Charles Jones, Adolfo Leiva, Virginia Medrano Rosales, Martin Partlan, Marsha Ramezane

Members Absent: Darne Duckett, Jeanne Gross, Brittany Piccolotti, Stephanie Samuelson

Others Present: Executive Vice Chancellor Jim Keller

The meeting was called to order at 2:23 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Professor Hernandez and seconded by Ms. Claire to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2009. The motion carried, all members present voting "Aye."

Public Comments

Mr. Flores Hernandez said that approximately 40 Skyline College students marched at Rally Day in Sacramento on March 16. Cañada College and College of San Mateo students also participated in the rally, which was in support of education.

Vice Chancellor Luan said it is probable that the Governor's May Revise will be presented in June, which negates the necessity for the Council meeting scheduled for May 18 to review the Revise. He asked Council members if they want to meet during the summer session or wait until September. Ms. Medrano Rosales pointed out that the student membership will change after their spring elections. Professor Dilko said that many decisions will have to be made after the Revise and that many constituent groups will be maintaining contact over the summer, so that there might not be urgency for this body to meet. Council members agreed to cancel the May 18 meeting.

Board Policy Revisions: Chapter 7

Vice Chancellor Luan said that after consultation with District Director of Community/Government Relations Barbara Christensen and Vice Chancellor Marilyn McBride, it was determined that the revisions are not yet ready to be brought to the Council. This item will be deferred to the May meeting.

Report from the District Committee on Budget & Finance

Executive Vice Chancellor Keller reviewed the items in his printed report, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes. He said that if the initiatives on the May 19 ballot pass, the State budget will be \$8 billion in the red; without passage, the State budget will be \$14 billion in the red as of early April. Realistically, the State's budget could be \$15 billion to \$20 billion out of balance. For the District, projections based on passage of the initiatives show a \$15 million deficit over three years, and as much as \$20-\$25 million over three years if the initiatives do not pass. Executive Vice Chancellor Keller discussed current and potential future solutions for the District to address the deficit. He emphasized that the Board of Trustees and Chancellor consider layoffs to be a very last resort.

Professor Partlan said there should be coordinated planning efforts to address the District budget and asked if there is a Districtwide committee to look at restructuring and if there is dialogue among the Colleges. Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said planning begins at the College level, with each College examining its own budget and potential restructuring. At the District level, the District Budget

Committee, along with the Chancellor's Cabinet and Council, address budget issues. Professor Bennett asked if the College Presidents and Vice Presidents talk with other; Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said there is continual dialogue.

Regarding the solution listed as "Manage FTES to cap," Professor James asked how the cap is determined. Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said there is a Statewide formula and that the District's allotment is continually changing depending on what happens at the State and District levels.

Professor Partlan asked for an update regarding the possibility of the District becoming a basic aid district. Vice Chancellor Keller said the only way the District would achieve basic aid status is if things go very badly in the State. Therefore, it would be difficult to say if the change in status would be good for the District; while it would create a floor on how much damage could be done to the District, it is clearly not positive if the situation is very bad for the State.

Professor James asked for clarification of the statement, "We will not be able to serve all students" in Executive Vice Chancellor Keller's report. Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said the Colleges might have to consolidate some classes, which would take away some student choice in terms of the times and locations of class offerings.

Professor James referred to job postings for project managers on the District website and asked if the openings will be funded through bond funds; Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said they will. Professor Dilko asked about the possibility of getting back some of the bond funds lost through the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy. Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said that Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and others are lobbying hard to get Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) funds and Chancellor Galatolo now thinks there is a 50 percent chance of procuring some of the funds. Mr. Jones asked if there is a chance that the District might get federal stimulus money. Executive Vice Chancellor Keller said that while the community colleges fared fairly well in the budget, most of the stimulus funds are going to the K-12 system. Vice Chancellor Luan said he and the Vice Presidents have submitted proposals to the County Workforce Investment Board (WIB). At the time the proposals were submitted, County WIB Manager Fred Slone had not said specifically what the stimulus dollars would be funding. Ms. Allen and Mr. Leiva discussed workforce development programs, emphasizing the importance of transportable skills for students. Vice Chancellor Luan said that many proposals have a short deadline and funding decisions are being made very quickly; therefore, the District must be ready to mobilize, adapt and respond on short notice. Professor James said there is a strong need to support the general education mission, making sure that all students are literate so they can be resourceful and move in another direction if necessary.

Planning Update

Professor Dilko said the Strategic Planning Committee asked each College to choose its top priorities from the 53 items listed in the District Strategic Plan, to be the basis for beginning the evaluation process. Acknowledging that all 53 items would eventually be addressed, the committee decided to start work on the top three. There was significant overlap between the Colleges' priorities and the Board of Trustees' goals. The decision was made to begin with the items which had the most overlap:

1. Student Success/Addressing the Achievement Gap. The Strategic Planning Committee will ask the District Research and Planning Council to identify success indicators. Create a tool to tabulate the factors and, as a District, the Strategic Planning Council will look at where there are strengths and weaknesses.

2. **Integrated Research.** Research should be readily available for use in increasing institutional effectiveness and student success. In order to determine what the faculty and staff think about the research that is currently available, the District Strategic Planning Council will ask the District Research Council to develop survey questions that would be asked regularly. The District Research Council is working on a survey that could be used at all three Colleges.

3. **Workforce Development.** Develop new programs and enhance existing programs. The Strategic Planning Committee will ask the VP's to develop a reporting mechanism by which they can inform the Strategic Planning members of the activities in the area of workforce development. Given the dynamic and urgent nature of workforce programming, including the Federal Stimulus and State initiatives, this first step will help us to assess the direction of workforce programs across the District.

Plus/Minus Grading Pilot

Professor Dilko presented information on the pilot as an information item. Plus/minus grading went out of use in the District when the Banner system was implemented. Through the years, a significant number of faculty has asked to have it reinstated. Over the past two years, discussions were held at College of San Mateo and the issue was brought to the District Academic Senate and to the College Senates. A survey was sent to faculty and the results showed that 69% were in favor of plus/minus grading and 30 % did not want a change. The District Academic Senate recommended that a pilot study be conducted, based on a pilot done at the Foothill-DeAnza District. The results of that pilot showed no significant change in students' GPAs and no negative impact regarding transferring to four-year institutions. Most of the four-year institutions to which our District sends students use plus/minus grading. ITS Director Eric Raznick has confirmed that plus/minus grades can be captured for use in analysis without using them for calculating GPAs for the first year. Professor Dilko said the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the pilot. If no substantial adverse impact on students is demonstrated, implementation of plus/minus grading will commence in June of 2010.

Professor Hernandez said that Skyline faculty are not all in agreement on plus/minus grading and students are not in support. He said it will be very helpful to have data on which to base the decision.

Ms. Medrano Rosales said students do not believe their voice will carry much weight when the pilot is completed. Professor Hernandez said that Skyline students' voices will definitely be heard. Professor Dilko said the pilot was recommended in part because of students' concerns. Professor Bennett added that the Academic Senates at all three Colleges are very sensitive to student concerns.

Closing Remarks

None

Agenda Building

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:43 p.m.