

California Community College Independents
Spring 2008 Conference, May 2-3, 2008
Sheraton Grand, Sacramento

Meeting Notes

Members present: Allan Hancock, Chabot-Las Positas, Contra Costa, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, Foothill-De Anza, Rancho Santiago, Pasadena, Redwoods, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa, West Valley/Mission

Guests: Jennifer Baker, Bill Hewitt, Jonathan Lightman, Erik Skinner, Ian Walton

First Session, Friday, May 2

CCCI President Rich Hansen called the first session of the Spring 2008 Conference to order at 9:00 am. Following introductions, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Guest Presentations:

Jonathan Lightman, Executive Director of FACCC, reported on four topics:

1. current environment in the Sacramento, including leadership issues in the legislature and political convergence on Career Technical Education and Basic Skills;
2. aftermath of Proposition 92, noting the increased respect for community college advocacy;
3. community budget advocacy, commenting on lack of COLA, under funding of growth, potential categorical cuts, the property tax shortfall in the current year, and student fees;
4. FACCC advocacy efforts, noting the "Point and Click" feature on the FACCC website.

Lightman highlighted FACCC membership efforts, focusing on recruitment of recently hired faculty. He noted that several CCCI member units had worked on funding all or part of the first year of a new member's dues.

Ian Walton, Past President of the State Academic Senate, presented an overview of the Basic Skills Initiative, outlining the history and future components of the three-phase plan: research, results, and professional development. He concluded with a review of implications for collective bargaining, citing local structural changes due to the integration of the plan, the importance of cooperating with the local senate, the need for processes to access professional development opportunities, potential alteration of class size and load, and oversight of new categorical funding.

Eric Skinner, System Office Vice Chancellor of College Finance and Facilities Planning, presented a report on the current year budget and negotiations on the 2008-09 budget. He discussed the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) budget proposal and noted that the governor's May budget revision would be released soon. He emphasized that new sources of revenues were needed to solve the budget problems but admitted the political difficulty of passing any tax increase. The System Office is engaged in joint advocacy with UC and CSU and also noted efforts to partner with K-12. So far, the community colleges have been doing well given the restricted budget outlook.

Lunch: 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Jennifer Baker, CalSTRS Government Affairs Director, reported on legislation including a bill to

modify or eliminate the earnings cap for retirees who return to part-time teaching in community colleges. She explained AB1967 which regulates investments tied to sovereign wealth funds and discussed proposals involving a reduction of state contributions to the SBMA (Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account). She indicated that the likely direction would be to secure 85% purchasing power protection without vesting.

CCCI Business:

The agenda was amended to move the discussion of the role of CCCI in post-Prop 92 advocacy efforts to the second session (Saturday) and to add items to be discussed under “other” in the second session: dismissal for cause and termination of part-time, temporary faculty; the state effort to provide universal health care and retiree health benefits; reporting office hours to STRS; Delta Dental; COCAL Conference; and department chairs and supervisory authority.

Members discussed the format of the meeting notes and the CCCI newsletter. Meeting notes are to be informal and brief, and the newsletter should get back on a regular publication basis in 2008-09.

District Negotiation Reports:

Santa Monica, Rancho Santiago, Allan Hancock, Contra Costa, and Foothill-De Anza.

The conference recessed at 5:00 pm.

Second Session, Saturday, May 3

President Hansen called the second session of the Spring 2008 Conference to order at 9:00 am.

District Negotiation Reports (continued):

Redwoods, West Valley-Mission, Chabot-Las Positas, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Pasadena, and Grossmont-Cuyamaca.

MOTION made to direct the president to send a letter of censure of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Board of Trustees in support of the United Faculty to the System Office, the Accreditation Commission, and the Grand Jury investigating the activities of district administrators.

M/S: West Valley/Mission and Santa Barbara – approved unanimously.

As member negotiation reports generally reflect a saga of battles waged on behalf of faculty, sometimes against substantial opposition from administrators and trustees, the group voted to create a “Broken Heart Award” to be awarded to the member facing the most heartless adversary. At this meeting, the first Broken Heart Award went to Grossmont-Cuyamaca.

CCCI Business:

John Smith, CCCI Treasurer, reported on CCCI finances. He presented the 2008-09 budget, and it was approved unanimously.

Hansen reported on CCCI participation in Consultation Council meetings, the Council of Faculty Organizations (CoFO), and Board of Governors meetings.

Election of officers was opened.

MOTION to nominate the four incumbents: Rich Hansen for President, Dennis Frisch for Executive Secretary, John Smith for Treasurer, and Cornelia Alsheimer for Part-Time representative.

M/S: Santa Barbara and Redwoods – approved unanimously.

MOTION made to elect the four nominees by acclamation.

M/S: West Valley-Mission and Redwoods – passed unanimously.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the possibility of staggering officer terms so that two are elected each year. This may improve continuity.

The group discussed the advocacy role of CCCI in the post-Prop 92 era. At issue is the possibility of having CCCI join larger advocacy organizations. Part of this discussion focused on the talks that are occurring between CCA leaders and CCC leaders on a merger of the two statewide collective bargaining organizations. Some members expressed interest in joining labor coalitions addressing budget advocacy. Hansen will monitor the situation and keep members advised of developments.

Hansen asked for help in producing the CCCI Newsletter. Jeff Michaels, Deborah Sweitzer, Ed Kleppinger, and John Smith volunteered. LaVaughn Hart volunteered to help with the layout.

Members agreed to three sets of dates for the Fall 2009 Conference: October 10-11, 17-18, or 24-25. Members suggested exploring several hotels in San Diego including the Westgate (the site of previous Fall Conferences), Embassy Suites, US Grant Hotel, and the Hotel del Coronado. Manhattan Beach was also suggested.

Members discussed several legislative items and adopted CCCI positions.

1. SBMA issue: 85% with vesting or leave “as is.”

2. Oppose AB 1967:

MOTION to oppose AB 1967.

M/S: West Valley-Mission and Santa Monica – approved after a vigorous discussion of the pros and cons of divestment and the issues surrounding AB 1967.

3. Members discussed AB2390, removing the earnings cap for retirees, including effects on part-time faculty but did not take a position.

4. Support AB 591, changing the 60% law to a 67% law:

MOTION to support AB 591.

M/S: Santa Monica and Contra Costa – approved.

5. Support SB 1620, on nurses in the community colleges – approved by acclamation.

6. Support AB 2277 on the property tax backfill – approved by acclamation.
7. Members discussed AB 2271 on disability insurance but did not take a position because the bill has been pulled.
8. Watch AB 906, the CTA-sponsored 50% Law audit bill – approved by acclamation.
9. Other bills discussed were AB 2083, the California Dream Act, and ACR 69, the CFT “FACE” bill.

Members concluded the conference with a brief discussion of the items added under “other.”

The Spring 2008 Conference adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Submitted by Dennis Frisch, Executive Secretary.