

California Community College Independents

Spring 2009 Conference, May 8-9, 2009
Sheraton Grand, Sacramento, California

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Chabot-Las Positas, Contra Costa, Foothill-De Anza, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, Ohlone, Pasadena, Rancho Santiago, Redwoods, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa, West Valley-Mission, Yosemite

Guests: Ed Derman, CalSTRS; Carl Friedlander, CCC/CFT;
Jonathan Lightman, FACCC; Ron Reel, CCA/CTA

First Session, Friday, May 8

CCCI President Rich Hansen called the first session of the Spring 2009 CCCI Conference to order at 9:00 am. After introductions, the conference moved immediately to the first of several guest presentations.

Guest Presentation:

Carl Friedlander, President of the Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CCC/CFT), and Ron Reel, President of the Community College Association of the California Teachers Association (CCA/CTA), presented an update on the merger discussions currently ongoing between CCC and CCA. They noted areas of progress and cooperation, but they anticipate another two years of discussion. Questions and discussion followed the presentations.

While Friedlander and Reel were present, the group began its discussion of accreditation issues, noting a rising level of anger and frustration among faculty leaders. Friedlander reported that CFT had sent a letter to ACCJC Executive Director Barbara Beno demanding that the commission stop intruding into areas subject to collective bargaining. CCC has also distributed data showing a large number of sanctions in the Western Region in comparison to other regions in the country. Reel reported that CTA may be filing a lawsuit against the commission in support of one of its community college districts. Several CCCI members reported on developments in their districts.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of items on sabbatical leaves, the CCCI newsletter, the state master plan review, part-time faculty access to flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and a proposal for a resolution addressing issues raised in the accreditation discussion.

The group discussed the status of the CCCI newsletter and raised the possibility of an electronic version.

Guest Presentation:

Jonathan Lightman reviewed the April budget revision including the reduced funding for community colleges, the property tax shortfall, lack of growth funding, and the recent Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) report on the state cash flow crisis. He said the community college system faces a budget reduction of between \$300 and \$440 million and noted continued support for downgrading physical education/recreation courses from credit to non-credit. He also reported that the new Republican

Assembly leader, Sam Blakeslee does not support eliminating defined benefit pension plans.

Lightman emphasized the importance of advocacy at the local level and asked CCCI representatives to participate in the weekly advocacy calls he chairs. He also asked that CCCI leaders join the system wide effort to set up local advocacy teams. To conclude his presentation, Lightman reviewed each of the budget propositions on the May 19 ballot.

Guest Presentation:

Ed Derman, CalSTRS Deputy Chief Executive Officer, presented an update on current CALSTRS issues. He reviewed several bills and the current financial health of the system. He noted that CalSTRS is healthy, currently funded at a level of 88 percent but added that the board is studying future gradual rate increases to address the 12 percent unfunded liability.

District Negotiation Reports:

West Valley-Mission, Santa Barbara, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, Contra Costa, Yosemite, Redwoods, Santa Monica, and Rancho Santiago reported on negotiation issues.

The conference recessed at 5:00 pm.

Second Session, Saturday, May 9

Hansen called the conference to order at 9:00 am.

District Negotiation Reports (continued):

Rancho Santiago, Ohlone, Santa Rosa, Foothill-De Anza, Pasadena, and Chabot-Las Positas reported on negotiation issues.

CCCI Business:

Members continued the discussion of the CCC/CCA merger voicing a shared concern about K-12 dominance of the new merged community college organization. Many agreed that a better merger plan might evolve out of a new organization formed separate from the two big unions that, once organized, negotiated an affiliation agreement with the unions. It was noted that Grossmont-Cuyamaca currently faces a decertification efforts coming from both CCC/CFT and CCA/CTA.

MOTION to take a more proactive stance in asserting CCCI right to be part of the merger discussions.

M/S GrossmontCuyamaca and West Valley/Mission – approved unanimously.

A draft resolution on accreditation concerns and inappropriate activities on the part of the accreditation commission was presented. It was enthusiastically received, and those assembled revised the draft.

MOTION to adopt the resolution as amended.

M/S Contra Costa and Santa Barbara – deferred for further revision.

The members discussed and took positions on several bills.

AB 381 (Block) – State Disability Insurance access for part-time faculty.

MOTION to support.

M/S Pasadena and Foothill-De Anza – passed unanimously.

AB 385 (Block) – Growth formula revision (FACCC sponsored).

MOTION to support.

M/S West Valley/Mission and Rancho Santiago – passed unanimously.

AB 551 (Furutani) – Property tax backfill.

MOTION to support.

M/S Santa Barbara and Santa Monica – passed unanimously.

The group discussed a report of a meeting of community college advocates on the “52 Percent Law” designed to change the 50 Percent Law to include counselors and librarians. Several argued that it would be more beneficial to counselors and librarians to establish ratios of counselors and librarians to students rather than amend the current 50 Percent Law.

There was a brief discussion of the Employee Free Choice Act.

MOTION to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

M/S Santa Monica and Pasadena – passed unanimously.

Members discussed the revised draft of the resolution on accreditation issues.

MOTION to approve the resolution on accreditation.

M/S Contra Costa and Santa Rosa – passed unanimously.

The approved resolution will be sent to ACCJC and distributed to as wide an audience as possible. A copy of the final version delivered to ACCJC is attached.

The members discussed drafting a letter in support of Pasadena against the lawsuit brought by CCA/CTA.

MOTION to draft a letter in support o Pasadena.

M/S Grossmont-Cuyamaca and West Valley/Mission – passed unanimously.

Nominations were opened for the “Broken Heart” award. Nominees were Pasadena, Redwoods, and Rancho Santiago, and the award for the Spring 2009 Conference went to College of the Redwoods.

Members discussed the Fall 2009 Conference which will be held in the South. The consensus was to have the Fall Conference at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, either on October 9/10 or October 16/17.

Members discussed the CCCI newsletter and website agreeing to move forward with the assistance of Santa Rosa.

President Hansen reported on CCCI participation in Consultation Council and the Council of Faculty Organization meetings. He reviewed the discussion at the Community College Board of Governors

meeting in November regarding the FON and the unsuccessful faculty attempt to salvage some new full-time positions on the basis of the small COLA originally in the 2008-09 budget. The point is moot now that the state economy has deteriorated and the budget has been overhauled.

Hansen also reported that the California Forward meeting in February 2009 and warned of the growing chorus of criticism aimed at community colleges on the grounds that success should take priority over access. He also noted resolutions that were passed at the recent CFT conference on part-time rehire and promotion rights.

Members discussed the items added to the agenda: union/senate relations, part-time faculty access to FSAs, sabbatical leaves, and the state master plan review.

The Spring 2009 Conference adjourned at 4:00 pm.