

LANEY COLLEGE
March 17, 2010
Room T-450 / 2:00-3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Tina Vasconcellos, Elnora Webb, Becky Hsieh, Scott Strong, Don Petrilli, George Kozitza, Evelyn Lord, Shirley Coaston, David Reed, Donna Marie Ferro, Eliza Chan, Donald Moore, Brian Nelson, Anton Bosneaga, Ju Hong, Newin Orante

Minutes:

Maisha Jameson

1. Welcome & Introductions

- President Webb indicated that she may want to move the location of College Council so that the seating is equalized and more conducive to discussion. Scott Strong suggested that maybe the Laney Bistro might be available.
- Request - that paper copies of the Minutes for the Meeting be available at the meeting.
- Request - to have the minutes posted once they are approved.
- Will need to formally approve the minutes for the past 4 meetings at the next meeting. This will be the 1st standing item on agenda → approval of minutes.

Facilities Update

- A complete list of the ongoing facilities projects that are being worked on at Laney was requested of Mark Sennette, Sadiq Ikhara and Bob Beckwith within the Dept. of General Services. This list has been received but is still being reviewed by Dean Menendez (Chair of the Facilities Planning Committee) – We need this list in order to create sound contingency plans for buildings/areas that may be out of commission as a result of the Laney Construction and upgrade projects, including the ADA/BRIP project.
- With leadership, the Facilities Planning Comm. came up with a comprehensive overview of our facilities priorities. This will be shared soon.
- We need to send something expeditiously with regard to our Facilities Planning to our partners who we are working with on the Lake Merritt Bart Area Redevelopment project.

HR Update

- Inger Stark is now the new Acting Dean for Business, Math and Science due to Mike Orkin going over to the District as the Interim Director of Institutional Research. No one from this division applied for the position.
- An ongoing issue remains that Student Services has insufficient staff and there is no approval to fill any vacant positions at the Colleges.
- Lawrence Chan is now serving as the Financial Aid Supervisor - working out of class until we hire someone for the Interim

- Also recruiting for the Staff Assistant in the Laney Business Office (position that is responsible for Facilities)

2. Accreditation

- The Laney College final Follow-up Report was submitted to the Accrediting Commission on time, as required on Monday, March 15th
- Another report, the Special Report, is to be submitted (by the District) to the Commission in relation to the audit findings at the District. This report is due on April 30th.
- After this, we expect that the Commission will send a team to visit the College. We do not yet know this date.

3. Student Housing Proposal – *Presented by Charles Oewel, Director of Student Center Association + Jim Hunter of Hunter Holdings (both working with the PCCD Dept. of General Services)*

- (Handouts passed out: Proposal for Student Housing District-wide With a Land Purchase-Leaseback & Response to questions & concerns raised by the Peralta Academic Senate)
- There have been a number of questions that have originated here at Laney...they are included in the above referenced document.
- This project is being vetted through-out Peralta. Oewel & Hunter will also vet this proposal at the Laney Facilities Planning Committee Meeting next Monday.
- The student housing in question happens to be located in Berkeley. This site was chosen because the city of Berkeley is a big College town, and has lots of students.
- There are 88 beds within the facility that is being considered for purchase... Consist of 44 1-3 bdrm. units...Proposing double occupancy in each unit... Leased by the bed – includes kitchen, individual bathrooms, furniture, utilities, internet & cable, etc. unlike traditional dorms you find at UCB – There will be a student center on ground floor for student recreation time. Wireless internet access there. There are 12 beds held-back at a subsidized rate for low-income students.
- It is believed that we will likely meet the demand needed to fill the units. Other students from other local colleges would take up beds that are not taken up by Peralta students. Peralta students would be given priority.
- The facility would be a supervised dorm-like apartment bldg. to provide structure.
- There is an affordability project that has been anticipated to under-cut the housing market-rate charged by UC Berkeley for their student housing by 40%.
- Question - What is the cost for the low-income students? Answer \$450; \$870 for the regular rate units.
- The facility is a building that has already been through the approval process and has current permits. Already approved by City of Berkeley, and is construction ready.
- One of the major constituents of the demand for this housing will be International students. Peralta is seeking alternate revenue sources... One of these options would be attracting more International students who pay full tuition.
- The priority will be for Peralta students. It is to be marketed to Peralta students only. Cooperative marketing program, our students will have the exclusive choice – only if our property is not full will the beds be open to other students.
- President Elnora Webb expressed concern about there not being enough low-income units designated given that most of Peralta students are low-income.

- Concern expressed that this proposal seems to be more suited for University Students.
- There was no RFP done for this work
- Question - Have feasible sites around this (Laney) area been looked into given that Laney is the largest campus with the most international students? Response was that the Berkeley site is to serve as a pilot for possible other sites.
- The liability of the property sits at the owner's level. The property would be insured and managed.
- Once the bonds are paid, then Peralta owns the land
- Many expressed concern that this was the first time they had heard about this proposal.
- Question - Who would be staffing this project/building? Would it be the responsibility of Peralta to staff? Answer - This work would be outsourced to a property management company that would address anything that happens on site.
- Suggestion – if PCCD is to be involved, it would be great to have for example, Living and Learning Centers – partnering with other colleges, adding an academic element to the housing.
- Suggestion - Needs to be some kind of seamless action to allow our students who rely on financial aid to be able to pay rent automatically through those funds.
- Question - In light of the soft rental market, what is the vacancy rate of Berkeley right now? Answer - Currently the vacancy rate is about 4-5%...because it is a student city, it doesn't follow the market-rate of the rest of the Bay Area.
- All Peralta is being asked to do is buy the land and then lease it to the property managers – All revenue flows to Peralta after the cost to operate, i.e. keep the beds and management infrastructure.
- \$50,000 will be received by Peralta off the top. Then there is a potential revenue of up to \$500K brought in by tuition of international students. It is not certain whether this is per semester or year.
- Point asserted - As a College we have not yet said yes or no to this presentation. We heard his presentation, but little of our concerns were heard.
- Both the Faculty & Classified Senates expressed displeasure with the proposal. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution that stated that they are against the District purchasing any land until the proposal goes through a formal vetting of the shared governance process and until all our current facilities projects are prioritized
- Evelyn Lord to send the Faculty Senate resolution to the President's Office.
- The Lake Merritt Redevelopment plan and the potential incentives for creating mixed-use properties closer to Laney was brought up
- Concern was expressed that our Board may go forward with this project regardless of the push back that is expressed
- Concern also expressed that this may affect our Accreditation
- The Council voted on whether to agree with the Laney Faculty and Classified Senate's recommendation to oppose the District Student Housing proposal. Evelyn Lord – made a motion to oppose the proposal and Donna Marie Ferro seconded her motion. → THE COUNCIL VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY /100% IN FAVOR OF OPPOSEING THE STUDENT HOUSING PROPOSAL AND IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION AND THE CLASSIFIED SENATE RECOMMENDATION

4. Shared Governance

- We need to find ways to ensure the effectiveness of our Shared Governance processes. This work may include decisions to consolidate committees or create new ones, make decisions with regard to committee membership, review committee charges, etc.
- We need to provide clarity as to what we should be doing and then move forward on implementation of that to ensure the effectiveness and integrity of the institution. Want to encourage people to invest at a greater level and not over extend themselves.
- Add Brian Nelson, Scott Strong, Don Petrilli and Anton Bosneaga to the smaller work group to address our Shared Governance procedures.

5. LCPAC

- LCPAC has not been actively engaged in a while given its' stated charge → to meet to discuss particular tasks related to policy (free speech, copyright, food service, etc.)
- A final LCPAC Meeting will be arranged before the end of the year
- Please send email to Maisha Jameson and cc. President Webb to be included on invite list for this meeting. All meetings are open, but per the membership, particular people will be invited to participate.

6. Budget Update & Planning – presented by George Kozitza (Business Office Business Management Consultant)

- The College is going to be asked to make some additional reductions at the scenarios of 5% (\$1.5 mill), 10% (\$3mill) and 15% (\$4.5 mill) of the General Fund
- The real concern is that we have cut and cut and cut, and many are expressing that they can't really cut anymore. Guidelines for a consistent approach college-wide (as opposed to making cuts dept by dept.) is needed in order to move forward – hoping for recommendations from the Budget Advisory Committee.
- Coming up with augmentation plans for what is set forth in the EMP is a lot of work
- This is a serious situation – going to need to make some cuts, and we need to work together on this.
- Question – Is the District Office also making these cuts? Answer – Yes. The District and all 4 colleges need to make plans for cuts that equal to the percentage of the overall PCCD Budget they make-up.
- Any proposed or recommended cuts will be closely reviewed and communicated so that everything is considered. Everything is an unknown at this time.
- Concern brought up about where the Laney College International Students tuition money is going? Response – It went into the General Fund so that it cannot be tracked.
- Discussion ensued about how the EMP leads the Budget vs. the other way around. We need to prioritize resources again in order for this scenario budget planning.
- Need to keep in mind that Student Services is mostly funded by categorical funds so when they are cut, they are cut twice (by the State and by the District)
- It is important for us as a College to come up with/determine our priorities and what principals should guide our activity year-long as well as drive our work to bring in alternate revenue funds.
- Send budget recommendations for budget principals and priorities as they relate to reductions and actions to Maisha Jameson so that we can get them noted this week...No later than Friday. We have very limited time to get this together

- Suggestion - consider the possibility of having a 3 college district as opposed to a 4 college district to be able to survive. Answer given by District is that we generate more money from the state and feds because we have 4 colleges. If we reduce them, then we reduce the funding we receive.
- Suggestion - To seriously consider fee-based classes.
- Scott Strong offered to be part of a work team to serve with some faculty to study the issue of fee-based classes and moving forward. Need to advocate for a change within the District policy with regard to this issue.
- The Instructional Council is working through identifying a model for this that would work for us/the District.
- The Union should be involved in this discussion as well.

- **Faculty Senate Report**
 - No time for Senate reports

- **Classified Senate Report**
 - No time for Senate reports

- **ASLC Report**
 - No time for Senate reports

- **Union Rep Reports**
 - SEIU 1021
 - No time for Union reports

 - Local 39
 - No time for Union reports

 - PFT
 - No time for Union reports

- **Committee Reports**
 - No time for Committee reports