

# LANEY COLLEGE COUNCIL

October 21, 2009

Room T-450 / 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## Minutes

**Present:** Indra Thadani, Tina Vasconcellos, Donald Moore, Frank Chong, Karolyn Van Putten, Eliza Chong, Linda Sanford, MaryBeth Benvenuti, Don Petrelli, Shirley Coaston, Newin Orante, Donna Marie Ferro, Steve Lomba, Ron Jones, Becky Hsieh, Elnora Webb

**Minutes:** Maisha Jameson

1. Agenda review and Adoption

2. Budget Update (MBB)

**General Fund**

- The Business Manager, MaryBeth Benvenuti presented the Budget that was presented to Thomas Smith at the District Budget Advisory Committee Meeting. The Documents, *General Fund budget summary*, and *General Fund staffing list* were passed out
- All left-over budget funds will be designated to Instruction.
- The Department Chairs have been notified of which weekend courses will not be offered for the Spring 2010 semester.
- The Integration of tutorial services on campus was discussed. Cut backs will be made of tutoring positions that can be consolidated into other positions. This will hopefully allow for a more efficient distribution the workload.
- Need a seamless integrated approach to restructuring tutoring services so that the student process for requesting and signing up for a tutor is seamless.
- Concern was expressed about laying off the Tutoring Services Specialist whose services are still needed and have

been apart of the Laney community for an extended period of time.

- Frank Chong asked the group to provide alternative suggestions as to where budget cuts would be more appropriate than what was being proposed.
- Karolyn Van Putten asked which factors were being considered in determining the “productivity” of a position and or department.
- There are corresponding workloads that go along with the elimination of these positions. Concern was expressed as to where does that work go? To other already fully-loaded positions? If we are cutting positions, we should be cutting them from programs that are not as essential to the mission and/or day-to-day operations of the college.
- Donald Moore mentioned that cut backs to sports programs will more than likely have to be applied as time goes by.
- Frank Chong indicated that he and all of the Student Services team have been advocating to the Board that the District draw funds from its’ financial reserves to lessen the blow to the Colleges.
- A Golden hand-shake option is not being considered at this time because it is very expensive up-front
- MaryBeth Benvenuti reminded the group that the (non-personnel) expenses that have already been allocated to dept budgets will need to be taken back. She will be doing a budget transfer.
- MaryBeth Benvenuti will send each of the Vice Presidents their budget for travel. They will then be responsible for maintaining costs within that budget.

### **Categoricals**

- The Federal stimulus backfill to help fund categorical expenses will not provide the extensive financial help needed to help reduce cuts to services in this area.

- Frank Chong is advocating for monetary relief from the District. A proposal is being made to take \$650K out of reserves to help in several areas at Laney.
- A District Proposal to save \$500K consists of eliminating the Public Information Officer (PIO) services. Frank Chong expressed concern about this proposal and the loss of services in this area.
- Each of the College Presidents were asked to make a 10 minute presentation to the board on 2 questions → What are the specifics of the General Fund 2% cut + what, specifically, are the categorical cuts? In short, we will need to show the funding for Categoricals for last year, and then for this year, and then the impact of the cuts... what positions/services will be eliminated.
- The Board may be looking into tapping into some of the reserves to soften the blow
- Donald Moore – Student Services were told that the only way to appeal a budget cut decision is to propose it to the Education Committee who will then take it to the PBIC (District’s Planning & Budget Committee)
- The District Response suggested that the Peralta Colleges Foundation enact fundraising efforts to help with this the categorical budget cuts. This was considered an unrealistic and insufficient resource to address the magnitude of the problem.
- Elnora Webb - didn’t feel there was an existing process as to how issues like this are brought before the District/Chancellor for approval...Proposed that we ask to add “developing a sound process to agendaize issues” to a future agenda. Donald added that this had already been attempted but they weren’t allowed to do it.
- Newin Orante – The charge of these various District Committees is not clear.
- Student Services indicated that they have been exploring many options to combat these cuts, but still recommend a more strategic approach.

- Karolyn Van Putten says that we need to hold the new PBIC model accountable for what it was set up to do --> manage the strategic flow of decision making
- Donald Moore – asserted that even with the pending potential district relief, Laney would still be in a position to lay off about 7 positions.
- Frank Chong suggested that Faculty form a strategy to synchronize the committees work around this urgent issue. Need to figure out when the District makes certain pertinent decisions and work backwards as to how to get into that process
- Waiting for the Board resolution to allow Student Services to get out the 45 day notices...Have heard that the Board will not hear this until November. This time frame makes it so that necessary layoffs won't take place until January 2010, but funding will run out in December 2009.
- This will move the staffing budget into a situation where staff must be paid (b/c by law you have to pay), but there is no money to pay them; furthering the financial crunch.
- Question: Being asked to act on an assumption. Liability issues. Does the College move forward the paperwork
- The College Council strongly recommended that those being laid-off be notified ASAP and that the paperwork (PAs) be processed.
- College Council advised that those facing lay-off be notified ASAP of their possible pending layoffs

### 3. Facilities - Tower Update

- Sadiq Ikhara brought a congregation of Facilities folks into the last District Health Services Center Task Force meeting where there were very few Laney folks in attendance. Decisions and plans came out in the meeting that were not vetted here at Laney.

- The Facilities Plan was sent to the State without the approval of the College, and the things in that plan are also being implemented without approval or vetting.
- Frank Chong – thinks that the Board of Trustees are currently only listening to the Faculty and Student Constituent groups.
- A discussion ensued about the Peralta Health Center
- Indra Thadani – Mental health issues are a real and serious concern. We are sub-standard as far as our quality of care. Just this week we lost a student to mental illness.
- Frank Chong made it clear that he was not against a health center, but rather the process that has been followed in coming to any decisions.
- Sadiq Ikharo agreed to 1<sup>st</sup> get buy-in from Laney constituent bodies
- This will be discussed in the Facilities Committee meeting on 11/16.

#### 4. Educational Master Plan Town-hall Re-cap

- Everyone was really engaged and this showed that this process would result in a completely vetted plan.

#### 5. Faculty Senate Report

- Some Recommendations for College Council to consider:
  - To have a Representation of Dept. Chairs on College Council – Have a Chair of Chairs represented on the Council
- To eliminate LCPAC because of the overlap of that body with College Council... This will be revisited at the next College Council.

#### 6. Classified Senate Report NONE

#### 7. ASLC Report NONE

8. Committee Reports  
NONE