



**Faculty Association of California Community Colleges Board of Governors  
Los Angeles  
October 3, 2008**

**Minutes**

Key Decisions and Actions:

1. Approved the following positions
  - a. support for federal legislation, HR 6652;
  - b. opposition to Propositions 6 and 9 on the November ballot.
  
2. Reviewed and made recommendations regarding FACCC committees and the relationship between committees and the Board.

Members Present: Teresa Aldredge, Cynthia Alexander, Ramona Barrio-Sotillo, Jeanne Dunphy, Dennis Frisch, Mary Ellen Goodwin, Lisa Gunderson, Richard Hansen, Bill Hewitt, Kathy Holland, John McDowell, Mitra Moassessi, Merylee Shelton, John Smith, Chuck Van Patten, Alicia Wang

Members Absent: Homer Arrington, Jim Custeau, Jim Newman

Staff Present: Natalie Devlin, Silvia Farias, Jonathan Lightman, Suzon Walton

Guests: Richard Bettendorf (CCCAOE), Mercy Yanez (EOPS), and Ken Sherwood

President Bill Hewitt called the meeting of the FACCC Board of Governors to order at 10:15 a.m. All introduced themselves to the group.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Bill Hewitt**

The agenda was approved unanimously with the addition of Propositions 5 and 11 to the list of items under FACCC Positions and Ballot Initiatives.

**Appointment of Parliamentarian**

**Bill Hewitt**

Mitra Moassessi was appointed.

**Liaison Reports**

**Bill Hewitt**

**Student Senate**

With no Student Senate representative in attendance, Executive Director Jonathan Lightman reported that he and System Vice Chancellor Marlene Garcia will present at the upcoming meeting of the State Student Senate.

**CCCEOPSA**

Mercy Yanez thanked Lightman for his services on behalf of EOPS. She reviewed the priorities for 2008-09, listing the state budget concerns, opposition to categorical block grants, the importance of site reviews, declining numbers of full-time directors, Title 5 issues, and concern over the CSSO proposal for a student services advisory Consultation task force.

Yanez also noted the upcoming Thirty-Eighth Annual EOPS Conference on October 28 in San Francisco at which Lightman will be a speaker.

**CCCAOE**

Richard Bettendorf reported on the upcoming CCCAOE Fall Conference October 22-24 in San Diego, at which Lightman will be a speaker. The pre-conference session will cover the transition from non-credit to credit programs. He said that the spring pre-conference will focus on basic skills. Lightman noted the confluence of basic skills and career technical education (CTE) issues, pointing out how these bring faculty interests together with those of CCCAOE and EOPS.

**State Budget**

**Jonathan Lightman**

Lightman began his review of the state budget by noting that while growth is funded at 2 percent, the system is experiencing growth at what may be a double-digit level. He pointed out that the statutory COLA is 5.66 percent, but the system is receiving only 0.68 percent as a Proposition 98 “balancer.” The threatened categorical cuts have not materialized, with these funds held at their 2007-08 levels. Lightman said that we can thank Proposition 92 for the fact that student fees have remained at \$20 per semester unit. Another positive result for students can be found in the continuation of the Cal Grant B program, something the governor had initially planned to phase out.

Lightman also noted the importance of community college advocates' success in turning back the governor's plan to change the COLA index. Such a change would mean a significant loss of funding for the community colleges. For details, he suggested that the Board reference his *FACCCTS* article on this subject. He also drew the Board's attention to \$12.3 million in funding for "green" programs.

He ended his budget discussion by stressing the importance of budget trailer bills AB 88 and AB 1389 as well as the Senate constitutional amendment that will probably go to the voters in June. Proponents don't want to run the amendment in March when the election will draw a large turnout in Los Angeles where the increased power granted the governor will face considerable opposition. If passed, the governor will have the power to impose mid-year cuts of up to 7 percent (although the community colleges and K-12 are exempt from these cuts), the Department of Finance (DoF) will be empowered to suspend COLA payments for up to 120 days with the governor able to suspend COLA indefinitely pending legislative action. The amendment also includes the governor's "rainy day fund" at 12.5 percent cap that he insisted upon as a condition for signing this year's budget.

Lightman also noted the central role FACCC plays in the weekly budget advocacy conference calls. He encouraged board members to participate in the calls that take place every Thursday morning at 8:30 am. These calls have been the primary means of coordinating all of the constituency groups in a unified advocacy effort on the state budget.

## **Legislative Update**

**Dennis Frisch**

### **Summary**

Lightman reviewed bills significant to community colleges that made it to the governor's desk. Among the large number the governor vetoed following the extended budget debate were three addressing community college issues: school bonds for faculty housing, reimbursement for inmates at the credit rate, and a transfer pilot program. The governor signed three bills: SB 1437 on concurrent enrollment, SB 588 concerning the Field Act, and AB 591 that raises the part-time faculty annual load limit from 60 to 67 percent.

HR 6652 - Federal Loan Forgiveness Program for Nurse Educators

Dennis Frisch brought a Legislative Committee recommendation that FACCC support this legislation.

Motion from the Legislative Committee to support HR 6652.

Passed unanimously.

### **2009 Legislative Program**

Frisch solicited input from the Board on FACCC's legislative program for the coming year. He said that a proposal would come to the November Board meeting from the Legislative Committee. He suggested that the Board keep in mind that the legislative program will proceed in the context of a very bad budget. The Board voiced the following suggestions:

- accreditation
- 75 percent goal
- community college faculty issues: diversity, inter-district transfers, faculty to administration transition, and housing
- budgeting and vocational programs (including connection to businesses)
- 50 percent law
- modifying the growth index

**FACCC Positions – Ballot Initiatives**

**Dennis Frisch**

Frisch reported on Legislative Committee consideration of the initiatives on the November ballot. The Committee made two recommendations: opposition positions on Propositions 6 and 9. Proposition 6 sets aside a significant portion of the state general fund for a law enforcement program, potentially shrinking the amount of state funding for other needs. Proposition 9 on victims’ rights threatens to do the same.

Motion from the Legislative Committee for FACCC to oppose Propositions 6 and 9.

Passed unanimously.

Discussion continued on several other initiatives on which the Legislative Committee decided FACCC should not endorse a position because community college faculty interests were not clear. Proposition 5 on drug sentencing reform has a mixture of support and opposition from mental health, rehabilitation, and public safety constituencies. Proposition 11 proposed redistricting in which it was not clear whether community college faculty interests would be harmed or helped. Propositions 7 and 10, both “green” initiatives were flawed and unlikely to pass. Following the discussion, the Board showed no interest in taking a position on these ballot initiatives.

**Retirement Update**

**Richard Hansen**

Richard Hansen updated the Board on Retirement Committee deliberations. He reported that a survey would soon go out to all community college bargaining units requesting input on changes to the post-retirement earnings limit that CalSTRS is considering. He noted that while retirees feel unjustly discriminated against, there are concerns that raising or eliminating the earnings limit may have a negative impact on the employment of both new faculty and active (non-retiree) part-time faculty.

He also reported that the Committee is reviewing options CalSTRS is considering for how the details of the SBMA 80 to 85 percent purchasing power guarantee will be monitored and adjusted. These options center on two main issues: the nature of the actuarial studies informing decisions pertaining to changes necessary to preserve the health of the fund and the size of incremental change allowed.

Hansen also noted that the Committee is still investigating several reporting issues with regard to part-time compensation and accumulated leave.

### **Post-Proposition 92**

**John McDowell**

President-Elect John McDowell led the Board in a discussion about the political fallout from the Proposition 92 campaign. He pointed the Board toward Lightman's article on this topic and emphasized that CTA's investment in the anti-Prop 92 campaign did not defeat the proposition; instead, the anti-ballot box budgeting argument became insurmountable in light of a worsening state budget. He also pointed out that CFA (the California Faculty Association, the CSU faculty union) and SEIU both also campaigned against the proposition. McDowell also drew the Board's attention to the fact that community college administrators failed to raise money in support of Prop 92.

Now, he said, the main issue is how all of the community college constituency groups can work together. McDowell noted that one summit meeting has already taken place, and a second is in the works. He also raised the issue of the proposed merger between CCC/CFT and CCA/CTA and suggested that FACCC must consider how it will or can get involved in these discussions.

### **Litigation: AB 540**

**Jonathan Lightman**

Lightman updated the Board on recent court decisions relating to AB 540 students. A legal challenge in behalf of a group of out-of-state students to AB 540 has been working its way through the courts. Nine or ten other states have a similar program under which in-state fees are granted to a restricted group of long-term resident but undocumented immigrant students. A lower court threw out the suit, but an appeals court has revived it on the grounds that AB 540 is pre-empted by federal law. Lightman observed that the issue can be settled in any of three ways: a decision of the California Supreme Court, a decision of the Federal Supreme Court, or federal legislation like the "Dream Act."

### **FACCC PAC Update**

**Jonathan Lightman**

Lightman reviewed the FACCC PAC endorsements for the November election. He noted that priority was given to candidates in contested races that supported Proposition 92.

### **Closed Session**

**Bill Hewitt**

Hewitt called the FACCC Board into closed session at 12:40 p.m.

At 12:45 p.m. Hewitt called the FACCC Board back to open session. He reported that in closed session the Board discussed the beginning of negotiations for the renewal of the Executive Director's contract and told the Board to expect a report at the January or February board meeting.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.

## **Membership**

**Natalie Devlin/Merylee Shelton**

Membership Director Natalie Devlin reported that since the beginning of the fall term, FACCC has added 114 new members, 86 of which are full-time, most of them recruited during new hire orientation meetings. She is now attending local Senate and department meetings. She added that FACCC will be engaging contract recruiters, one per region with Regional Governors serving as key contacts. Devlin anticipates that these recruiters will typically be part-time and retired faculty, and she hopes to have them on board by spring 2009. She also mentioned that FACCC is offering an improved Keenan-AIG health benefits plan under its affinity programs.

Merylee Shelton led the Board in a review of its membership responsibilities. She reminded the Board about using business card stickies, "From the Desk of . . ." memos, the possibility of having staff attend local meetings, and the importance of social activities like the upcoming November 16 post-conference tour of Los Angeles' historic sites, including Union Station and Chinatown. She also enumerated recruiting tools available to Board members like gas cards, \$50 full-time and \$25 part-time rebates, and contributions to local causes as a "thank you" for new members.

It was suggested that FACCC be sure to publicize, on the local campus, such contributions made on behalf of new FACCC members. Other suggestions included having staff look into the way in which retiree members are counted in the membership report and having the membership report include an accounting of the membership at contract districts.

Hewitt recessed the FACCC Board of Governors and convened the FACCC Education Institute Board of Directors at 1:45 p.m.

Hewitt reconvened the FACCC Board of Governors at 2:20 p.m.

## **FACCC Fiscal Report**

**Teresa Aldredge**

Treasurer Teresa Aldredge reviewed FACCC budget documents. A question arose regarding the definition of "miscellaneous receivables," and Aldredge will check with Janet Oropeza.

## **Consent Calendar**

**Bill Hewitt**

No items were pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

M/S – Alexander/Holland

Passed unanimously.

### **Committee Appointments**

**Jonathan Lightman**

Lightman reported that the Communication Committee has requested that the terms of David Megill and Joni Jordan be extended.

Motion to extend the terms of Megill and Jordan on the Communications Committee for 2008-09.

M/S – Holland/Barrio-Sotillo

Passed unanimously.

### **Improving Committee Efficiencies**

**Bill Hewitt**

Hewitt summarized the main issues to be addressed by this discussion: committee activities and committee relation to the Board. He explained that the Board directs the committees and the committees provide recommendations to the Board. He also noted that the Executive Committee and the FACCC PAC have a different relationship to the Board, and all of these matters are spelled out in the FACCC Bylaws. Hewitt ended his introduction with comments on the role of the committee chair who is to work with the staff member assigned to the committee to carry out the responsibilities of the committee, including setting meeting dates, writing the agenda, conducting meetings, and ensuring that approved meeting notes are submitted to the Board. He pointed out that the committee chair is the point person for communications with faculty volunteers. This becomes important when issues arise regarding committee member behavior and attendance.

The Board discussion raised a number of issues: problems that arise when the committee chair is not a board member, the need to build camaraderie among committee members, and the importance of face-to-face versus conference call meetings. It was suggested that at least the first meeting of the year be face-to-face and that modern technologies be brought into play to facilitate video-connected conference calls.

The NLIE Committee was directed to clarify recruitment, attendance policy and enforcement, length of terms, and the policy of cycling committee members on and off committees. It was suggested that there be improved communication with committee members who have been termed out and that there be a means of reaffirming the charge of each committee and the relationship of committee to the Board. Finally, it was noted that in addition to FACCC's responsibility for clear communication with committee members, the members must also act responsibly.

**Strategic Management**

**Bill Hewitt**

Hewitt noted that this Board meeting has already included a review of the leadership components of the Strategic Plan. He suggested that the Board consider the plan’s membership components and look for ways to integrate membership with the other work of the Board and its committees. In this regard, he noted the need for FACCC marketing. All of this work, he suggested, might be addressed at a meeting of the committee chairs at which cooperation among the committees could be given priority.

**Major Tasks Between Meetings**

**Bill Hewitt**

Hewitt enumerated three major tasks for the Board’s consideration: promote FACCC Education Institute professional development offerings, host legislator visits to local campuses, and emphasize membership recruitment.

**Adjournment**

**Bill Hewitt**

After announcing that the text for FACCC Bylaw changes that were approved at the Board Retreat would be presented at the next board meeting, November 21-22 in Anaheim, Hewitt adjourned the FACCC Board of Governors at 4:53 p.m.

Richard Hansen, Secretary

Approved by the FACCC Board of Governors November 22, 2008.

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(date)

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(signature)