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June 24, 2010

John McDowell, President
FACCC Board of Governors
1823 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: FACCC Political Action Committee (FACCC PAC) Annual Report

Dear John,

On behalf of the FACCC PAC, I am pleased to present our eleventh annual report to the Board of Governors. Since minutes of the FACCC PAC do not become part of the Board's record, the PAC has promised to keep the Board regularly updated on its activities through oral presentations at Board meetings and an annual written report.

It has been a great pleasure serving on this committee with my colleagues, Thelma Epstein, Teresa Aldredge, Rachel Winston, Marilyn Kennedy, John James, Carrol Waymon, Ken Gleason, Martin Goldstein and Bill Hewitt. Your assistance as our Executive Committee Liaison also contributed much to the discussions. Our decisions were made in a spirit of bipartisanship, reflecting the political diversity of the membership. Most importantly, all of our work conformed to the bylaws established by your board for our committee.

We are grateful to the Board of Governors for its confidence in our work. Thank you for empowering us to perform this important responsibility.

Sincerely,

Dean Murakami, Chair
FACCC PAC

cc: FACCC Board of Governors
Enclosure
DM/jl

Faculty Association of California Community Colleges Political Action Committee Annual Report

June 2010

As FACCC PAC concludes its eleventh year of existence as a sponsored FACCC committee, we can reflect upon our significant and productive activities. The following pages illustrate how the PAC made a positive difference for the association on behalf of community college faculty statewide.

June 2010 Elections

The FACCC PAC was exceptionally busy this election cycle, interviewing candidates for open Assembly and Senate seats, deliberating relative strengths and weaknesses of endorsement and financial contributions. Each member of the PAC was assigned one or more districts to conduct in-person or telephone interviews with the viable candidates. Following the interviews, the lead committee member would present his/her findings to the Committee along with an endorsement recommendation.

Prior to the election cycle, FACCC PAC created two sets of interview questions, one for candidates with no prior service in the Legislature, the other, for those who have previously served in the Assembly or Senate. These interview questions were never sent to candidates prior to the interviews; neither were they published on FACCC PAC's web page. Candidates were advised to peruse the FACCC website prior to the interview as a way of understanding issues and challenges facing the community colleges.

It should be noted that endorsements were not based on the interviews, but on the attached "Endorsement Criteria" developed prior to the election cycle. This method assured the candidates that FACCC PAC's process was consistent for each race, and that ethical standards would remain high.

As noted on the attached chart, FACCC PAC's record of success was substantial. In Assembly contests, FACCC PAC-endorsed candidates won 53 out of 56 races; our 15 endorsed candidates for the Senate all won.¹

A few highlights of our election victories include:

- a) AD 7 (Santa Rosa) – FACCC PAC was an early supporter of Democrat Michael Allen, who was interviewed by PAC member Ken Gleason. Allen was endorsed by the outgoing Assemblymember Norreen Evans, but was heavily challenged in the race. He was extremely thankful for FACCC PAC's endorsement, contribution and assistance.

¹ FACCC PAC engaged in 15 regular election Senate races, and one special election contest.

- b) AD 57 (West Covina) – FACCC PAC supported FACCC member, Democrat Roger Hernandez, one of the few candidates in this election cycle with a background in community colleges. Hernandez will replace Assemblymember Ed Hernandez, FACCC PAC’s first endorsed candidate this election cycle, who will be moving to the Senate.
- c) SD 18 (Bakersfield) – FACCC PAC supported Republican Assemblymember Jean Fuller in her race to succeed termed-out Senator Roy Ashburn. Jean Fuller came to the FACCC office to interview, and demonstrated her commitment to raise the profile of community colleges with her Republican Senate colleagues.
- d) SD 40 (San Diego) – FACCC PAC supported current Democratic Assemblymember Mary Salas over former Democratic Assemblymember (and FACCC supporter) Juan Vargas. This was a very difficult and close race, with the insurance industry campaigning heavily for Vargas. Salas was exceptionally thankful to FACCC PAC for its support and encouragement throughout the campaign.

FACCC PAC has also analyzed its three defeats in the Assembly primary elections (all Democrats), AD 5 (Eastern Sacramento), AD 21 (San Mateo), and AD 53 (Redondo Beach), and has now endorsed the winning Democrat in these races. In each instance, FACCC PAC made its initial decision based upon FACCC member input or other equally important concerns (pursuant to the FACCC PAC endorsement criteria). Most importantly, FACCC PAC is making overtures to the winning candidates in each of these races and does not believe there will be any long-term negative ramifications.

The role of our volunteer PAC members cannot be overstated. Every single member of the committee engaged in endorsement interviews and committee meetings. *From a staff perspective, it was the best group effort in 11 years of the PAC’s existence.*

Special Elections

FACCC PAC has endorsed Democrat John Laird against Republican Sam Blakeslee in the 15th Senate District, scheduled June 22. This race pits two former FACCC “Legislator of the Year” winners against one another, forcing the FACCC PAC to choose between two strong community college supporters.

On June 22, Sam Blakeslee won a plurality in this race, winning 49.7 percent of the vote. Since no candidate received a majority, he will face John Laird and two other minor party candidates in a run-off election scheduled August 17.

While FACCC credits Sam Blakeslee for his leadership on a host of policy and budget issues, FACCC PAC unanimously endorsed John Laird in this contest. With such strong sentiment in his favor, FACCC PAC made an early contribution of \$3,000 to the first round of the special election.

This seat opened up when the Legislature confirmed Senator Abel Maldonado as Lt. Governor. While Governor Schwarzenegger could have consolidated the race with the regularly scheduled election, it was widely perceived that a special election was called as a

means to assist Blakeslee over Laird (Democratic turnout is typically smaller in special election contests).

A new special election will be called to replace Republican Assemblymember Bill Emmerson (Hemet), who was elected to fill the Senate seat vacated by John Benoit. This election has not yet been scheduled.

For purely logistical reasons, FACCC PAC did not participate in the special election replacing former Democratic Assemblymember Paul Krekorian (Glendale). While overtures were made to the candidates, there was not a timely response from the campaigns to allow for in-person or phone interviews. FACCC PAC has since endorsed winning candidate Mike Gatto, who was also required to run in the regularly scheduled election and special election run-off.

FACCC Conference

The FACCC PAC has traditionally hosted a fund raising event (such as *Jeopardy!* or a golf tournament) in conjunction with the Annual Conference and a lunch speaker at Lobby Day. Since the annual FACCC conference is now focused on advocacy and policy, FACCC PAC's signature event was a breakfast fundraiser for Community College Caucus Chair Warren Furutani (D – LA). The event was cosponsored by the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, Santa Monica College Faculty Association, Los Rios College Federation of Teachers, Foothill DeAnza Faculty Association, and the Santa Barbara College Instructors' Association.

Approximately 120 people attended the breakfast, held at Ambrosia Café, across from the Capitol. Not only was Furutani impressed with the size of the crowd, he was also grateful that FACCC PAC and cosponsoring organizations were able to provide needed dollars in a generally slower fund raising time of the year.

In continuing with tradition, FACCC PAC hosted both a *Jeopardy!* tournament in which four two-person teams competed against one another. Additionally, FACCC PAC hosted pollster Adam Probolsky as the closing speaker for the FACCC conference.

FACCC PAC Web Page

For the first time, FACCC PAC had its own web page, featuring updates of FACCC PAC endorsements, and information on FACCC PAC events. More importantly, the web page gave information to both faculty and candidates for the Legislature on the PAC's process. Several campaign consultants remarked to FACCC PAC how impressed they were with the page, hoping that other organizations would follow suit.

Political Conventions

For the first time in six years, FACCC PAC returned to the California Republican and Democratic conventions, held in Santa Clara and Los Angeles, respectively. This was a positive experience for both conventions, offering political candidates and party activists an opportunity to discuss community college issues with FACCC leaders.

Given their proximity to the convention sites, Thelma Epstein and Martin Goldstein took the lead volunteer roles for the Republican and Democratic Conventions, respectively (see photos attached).

Extension of Contract with Legal Counsel

FACCC PAC has extended its contract with attorney Wayne Ordos to handle all Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) reporting duties to the Secretary of State. Consistent with the FACCC PAC bylaws, Ordos serves as the official Treasurer for the committee. Mr. Ordos is the former Executive Director of the FPPC and specializes in political reporting law.

FACCC PAC Officers

Martin Goldstein has been elected to serve as the Interim Chair of the FACCC PAC headed into next year. A new election will be called when new members of the committee are appointed.

Future Activities

Next year will be devoted to the November election, fund raising and future planning. The FACCC PAC will also be discussing long-term strategies on recruiting community college faculty members to run for the State Legislature. The Committee intends to return to the State Party conventions in 2012.