



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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CITY COLLEGE | MESA COLLEGE | MIRAMAR COLLEGE | CONTINUING EDUCATION

Board of Trustees Office

Trustee Advisory Council (TAC)

Thursday, October 29, 2015
3375 Camino del Rio South - Room 245
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Draft Minutes

Convener: Laurie Coskey

Members present: Nola Butler Byrd, Laurie Coskey, Ralph Dimarucut, Carol Kim, Jeff Marston, Alan Mobley, Alberto Ochoa, Olivia Puentes-Reynolds, Evonne Seron Schulze, Mark Tran.

Board Members present: Mary Graham, Rich Grosch, Bernie Rhinerson, Maria Nieto Senour

District officials, staff, and guests present: Constance Carroll, Jack Beresford, Amanda Ficken-Davis, Margaret Lamb, Pam Luster

Members absent: Willie Blair, Clint Carney, Dwayne Crenshaw, Ricardo Flores, Bob Garber, Martha Rañón, Gary Rotto, Cecil Steppe, David Valladolid, Sid Voorakkara.

Board Members absent: Peter Zschiesche

1. Welcome/Introductions

Laurie Coskey

Rabbi Laurie Coskey opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims of the recent shooting at Umpqua Community College. She thanked Chancellor Carroll for the work that she and the entire District have done in order to promote a safe learning environment. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Trustees' Update

Trustees

Trustee Rich Grosch spoke about the recent Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Conference, noting that the Budget Workshop that he presented, alongside Trustee Peter Zschiesche, Chancellor Carroll, and Executive Vice Chancellor Dowd, and the Baccalaureate program presentation he gave with Chancellor Carroll were very well attended and well received.

Trustee Maria Nieto Senour discussed her participation on an ACCT panel on diversity, which included a mention of the TAC and its role in the establishment of the District's cultural competency requirement. As a result, she has received invitations to attend other conferences to speak on the issue. She also mentioned the recent start-of-the-semester activities, including the College and CE convocations and the Chancellor's annual budget forums, which help educate employees and maintain the District's transparency.

Trustee Bernie Rhinerson announced his election to the ACCT Board of Directors, and stated that he is looking forward to serving in this capacity. There is a large focus on the growing rate of student loan debt and default. This was a topic of discussion at the October 22 Board retreat, specifically the rate default among SDCCD students. Periodic reports will be given to the Board on this topic to ensure that the District continues to encourage students to look at alternatives to loans. Trustee Rhinerson also reminded the Council that he is the chair of the Community College League of California's Advisory Committee on Legislation, and addressed current and upcoming legislation, including the recent passage of AB 288 (Holden), which eases dual enrollment requirements, and President Obama's America's College Promise campaign.

Trustee Mary Graham expanded on the importance of Trustee Rhinerson's ACCT election. She also discussed the recent ACCT conference, including a session on whether the organization should look into taking a position on the community college baccalaureate following the passage of SB 850, which made California the 22nd state to authorize such degrees.

3. **Approval of the May 21, 2015, Minutes**

On a motion by Evonne Schulze, and second by Jeff Marston, the minutes of May 21, 2015, were unanimously approved, with Mark Tran and Ralph Dimarucut abstaining.

4. **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Constance Carroll

- SDCCD Budget Update

Chancellor Constance Carroll reviewed the highlights of the District's 2014-2015 Adopted Budget. In short, this represents the largest increase in California Community Colleges (CCC) and San Diego Community College District history. She referred the Council to a handout providing a high-level overview of the CCC budget process, the history of student enrollment fees, an explanation of how state apportionment funding sources have changed, and specific information about the SDCCD budget. She briefly mentioned America's College Promise and the forthcoming California College Promise campaigns for tuition-free community college. She indicated that these plans are in the early stages; information about how TAC members can support these campaigns will be presented at a future meeting once more details are developed.

Alberto Ochoa referred to one of the Chancellor's slides, and asked whether the amount of the District's reserves was 5% of its total budget. Chancellor Carroll indicated that, including the funds listed under "GFU Beginning Balance," the total is closer to 7%. These reserves are important; during the recent economic downturn, the State of California delayed making cash payments. The District was able to use its reserves to cover operating and other expenses. Other districts had to borrow money to meet these obligations, requiring them to take on additional expenses in the form of interest payments to these creditors. Reserves have also been used in the past to cover Financial Aid payments to students when the Federal government has not issued checks on time.

Trustee Grosch added that making this information public not only helps the District remain transparent, but also fosters trust with employee groups, strengthening the District's collective bargaining position. The strength of the reserves also helped ensure that the District did not have to lay off employees or cut benefits during the recent

downturn. Evonne Seron Schulze agreed that by emphasizing these benefits, employee unions are more likely to support higher reserve levels.

Laurie Coskey asked about the expiration of Proposition 30, and the loss of its additional revenue streams. Chancellor Carroll responded that this would begin in 2018. The consensus throughout the state seems to be that the increase of personal income tax on high earners has made a significant impact on the recession and should be continued. Information about how the TAC can support the extension of this provision will be provided at a future meeting.

- *WE- With Excellence and* SDCCD Annual Report

Chancellor Carroll drew the Council's attention to these publications, which are also available online. She commended Communications Director Jack Beresford and his staff for their great work.

5. **TAC Request for Guidance from Board and Chancellor**
Chancellor

Laurie Coskey, Trustees,

- SDCCD Board of Trustees Goals for 2015-16 and SDCCD Strategic Plan 2013-2017

Laurie Coskey asked what the Board's goals are for the TAC. How can Council members be useful? Chancellor Carroll responded that the Council has proved to be very effective when involved in advocacy on behalf of the District. Members can also help by advising what goals they think the Board should add to their list of Annual Goals.

Trustee Rhinerson agreed about the importance of advocacy. He pledged to bring feedback about state and federal legislation that may affect community colleges. For example, there is currently federal legislation to require "risk sharing" between colleges and student loan lenders in the hopes of lowering default rates. Ralph Dimarucut asked whether the District could begin providing one-page fact sheets about how the District's work impacts the local community, and how key pieces of legislation will affect the District. For example, what impact will America's College Promise have? Trustee Graham indicated that at present, the national College Promise campaign is a good idea, but not a cohesive plan. States and the Federal Government are having discussions about what the plan is and should be for each state, and how the details such as funding will work out. Trustee Rhinerson added that headsupamerica.org is the official national website. There are also several nonprofits, including freecollegenow.org, that have been working on this issue for some time.

Trustee Senour stated that one of the ways the Council can help is to look at the Board's goals and provide feedback about the ways in which the TAC can help them be achieved. Laurie Coskey asked to have the Board's goals and the District's Strategic Plan sent electronically to all Council members. She asked that, between now and the next meeting, members review the goals and make suggestions about how they can help.

Alberto Ochoa noted that Board Goals 1, 3, and 5 all relate to the work the Council has done in terms of cultural competency. While the Board has adopted a Policy requiring cultural competency of its employees, the question becomes how to develop more specific metrics that can be used to measure the District's growth in recruiting diverse faculty members and in responding to the increasingly diverse San Diego community.

This also touches on how the District works with its K-12 partners in the San Diego Unified School District in the hopes of helping them become more responsive to this issue. Laurie Coskey asked whether, as an expert in this field, he would be willing to lead a 15-20 minute conversation at the December 17 TAC meeting about this subject. He agreed. Olivia Puentes-Reynolds supported the discussion, and asked that the Council be provided with a summary report about what is currently being done by the District and its colleges to support this effort. Chancellor Carroll agreed that this information would be provided. In the meantime, Council members should review the Board's Goals and Strategic Plan, and send thoughts or questions to Laurie Coskey.

6. Information

- Baccalaureate Update

Chancellor Carroll
President Pam Luster

Chancellor Carroll and Mesa College President Pam Luster gave the Council an update on the baccalaureate pilot program and Mesa's new Health Information Management bachelor's degree. Chancellor Carroll thanked the TAC for their support of the important legislation that led to this program. Following the presentation, Pam Luster answered questions from Council member Mark Tran about program capacity, outreach, and demand. She emphasized the quality of the program, and the lack of local and public options for students in this field. Long-term it is anticipated that people will move to the San Diego area specifically to attend this program.

Nola Butler Byrd asked about the program's enrollment demographics. Pam Luster indicated that while she did not have specific numbers, the program and the field are both heavily female. Because this is part of the Information Technology field, this is a great opportunity to bring more gender balance. This is also a minority-majority program, with over 40% of enrollees identifying as Latino.

Chancellor Carroll emphasized that there is still confusion in the community about the community college baccalaureate. The degrees that are being offered are in workforce fields that are not well known. She is hopeful that the TAC will continued to spread the word about the work that the District is doing and how it hopes to expand these efforts, in order to match people's knowledge to available jobs.

7. Announcement of Upcoming SDCCD Events

- Board Meeting – District Office, November 12, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
- Board Meeting – District Office, December 10, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates: **Thursday, December 17, 2015**
 Thursday, March 3, 2016
 Thursday, May 19, 2016 – Group Photo

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.