



MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 5, 2009

MINUTES

The tour of the Agricultural Sciences Complex was canceled due to weather conditions.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Mt. San Antonio College Citizens Oversight Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2009.

CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Walter Allen	Heidi Gallegos (6:14)
Jim Grivich (6:33)	Mariana Lake
Yesenia Leon	Sylvia Mendoza (6:11)
Alta Skinner	Drexel Smith
Fidel Vargas, Sr.	

CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Albert Chang

STAFF PRESENT

John S. Nixon, President/CEO
Mike Gregoryk, Vice President, Administrative Services
Gary Nellesen, Director, Facilities Planning & Management
Diana Casteel, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees

GUEST PRESENT

Dr. Manuel Baca, Member, Board of Trustees

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Fidel Vargas, Sr. was introduced as the newest member of the Citizens Oversight Committee. Mr. Vargas is a 30-year resident of Baldwin Park. Retired from the construction industry, he is very active in volunteer and civic organizations. Mr. Vargas currently serves as a member of the Baldwin Park Unified School District Bond Oversight Committee.

President Nixon reported that, in January, Mr. Vargas was appointed by the Board of Trustees as a business/community representative. The Board also took action in January to

change Committee member Skinner's membership from business/community representative to senior citizens' representative.

Dr. Nixon also announced that Ron Wood, the College Advisory Council/Foundation Representative, has resigned. He recently retired from the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership and moved out of the area. Dr. Nixon will be working with the Foundation on a replacement for Mr. Wood.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Drexel Smith, seconded by Alta Skinner, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008, meeting. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. Members Allen and Lake abstained.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. FINANCIAL & PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORTS

Mike Gregoryk, Vice President, Administrative Services, reviewed the Performance Audit where revisions had been made to address concerns expressed by committee members at the November meeting. Following the review, it was moved by Alta Skinner, seconded by Mariana Lake, to accept the revised Performance Audit. Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORT ON MEASURE RR

President Nixon reported that, at its January 2009 meeting, the Board of Trustees took action that directly impacts the role of this committee. Dr. Nixon distributed copies of Resolution No. 08-08 where the Board approved expanding the scope of the current Measure R Citizens Oversight Committee and designating it to also serve as the independent bond oversight committee for Measure RR. Along with the resolution, the Board adopted bylaws and an ethics statement for the Citizens Oversight Committee, copies of which were also provided to committee members. Dr. Nixon pointed out that the bylaws indicate that the Committee will present to the Board of Trustees, in public session, an annual written report. Committee member Smith suggested that having the committee chair present the Board of Trustees with the Committee's annual report should satisfy this requirement.

Vice President Gregoryk provided a brief summary of where the College stands, as related to issuance of Measure RR bond funds. It is anticipated that President Nixon and Vice President Gregoryk will go to New York in April to meet with bond rating agencies. Past ratings have been very high. The first bonds are expected to be issued in May. The issuance will be between \$65-85 million, depending on assessed property values at that time.

One of the problems currently facing the College, and many others throughout the state, is that the public management investment fund that the State uses to temporarily fund its share of construction projects is out of money. As a result, a number of projects could be

delayed. Vice President Gregoryk said that, while this is presenting a financial challenge, this is actually a good time to build. Because of the economy, many project bids are coming in lower than anticipated. The College is very interested in taking advantage of these lower prices and locking in bids.

Vice President Gregoryk said that, at the May meeting, he and Director Nellesen will present a detailed report on the College's planning system that is already in use. This presentation will include timelines on proposed Measure RR projects.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON MEASURE R PROJECTS

Gary Nellesen, Director of Facilities Planning & Management, presented committee members with a detailed financial report and schedule of the following Measure R Projects that are active right now:

- Project 5 – Agricultural Sciences
Construction is in the very early stages. All the prime construction bids have been issued.
- Project 7 – Classroom Renovation
This was a huge undertaking – basically renovating three buildings consisting of 20 percent of the College's teaching space. The last building is wrapping up now. Director Nellesen said this couldn't have been achieved without the cooperation and collaboration of faculty, staff, and students.
- Project 13 – Student Services
Since the last update, there were two very small changes made in additional scope of work and equipment.
- Project 17i - Math
Director Nellesen pointed out that "Grounds Storage" had been added under *Owner-Added Scope*. This addition will allow grounds staff to store equipment and tools on this side of the campus rather than on the other side of Temple. A trash compactor was added to allow the College to implement a trash recycling program. It is believed that funds received from recycling paper will pay for this item. The College has also added a retail center to the interior of this building. Students will now have a place to purchase small food items (sodas, coffee, etc.).

7. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

- Yesenia Leon thanked the College for the construction projects that will be so beneficial to students. She also thanked the administration for adding the retail center to the Math/Science Building.
- Drexel Smith announced that, effective the end of December, he retired from Wyle Laboratories, Inc. He plans to remain on several national boards dealing with work force issues and will do consulting. He has formed the Drexel Consulting Group, LLC and looks forward to helping some start-up businesses.

- Walt Allen said he was heartened by Yesenia Leon's comments. Having a student show her appreciation is a good indicator that the College is on the right track with the construction projects.
- Alta Skinner commented that the Fairplex has opened an educational component. It is a certificate program for students who don't plan to go on to college. Dr. Nixon said the College is actually partnering with the Fairplex in several areas.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Nixon said the College is just finishing a very successful winter intersession where classes were full. The spring semester will begin February 22, and those classes are already full. In an economic downturn, enrollment at community colleges typically surges; however, without the funding to cover the increased enrollment, the College is forced to turn students away. Because of the State's fiscal crisis, the College will reduce the spring semester by 5 percent and the summer intersession by 50 percent.

Dr. Nixon said that if the Governor's proposal holds up, community colleges may come out of this pretty well. The Governor recognizes the role that community colleges play in economic recovery, re-training, and job training. As a result, he is no longer proposing action that would reduce the College's base funding; however, there are proposed reductions in ancillary funding. Community colleges received no COLA this year and do not expect a COLA in 2009-10. As expenses continue to rise, cuts have to be made to accommodate those increases. One proposal that would be very beneficial for community colleges includes backfill of property tax shortfall, which currently exists for K-12. If approved, this would relieve a lot of uncertainty when it comes to budget planning.

Committee member Yesenia Leon left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in Founders Hall.

Future meetings:

August 6
November 5

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

JSN:dc