



MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sunday, March 12, 2006

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mt. San Antonio College was called to order at 1:36 p.m., on Sunday, March 12, 2006, by Judy Chen Haggerty, Board President. Trustees Baca, Bader, Hall, Chyr, and Student Trustee McKay were present.

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher C. O'Hearn, President; John S. Nixon, Vice President, Instruction; Michael D. Gregoryk, Vice President, Administrative Services

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Faculty Association President Terri Smith Long requested she receive copies of handouts distributed at the table.

2. RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

Vice President of Administrative Services Michael Gregoryk distributed actuarial studies of retiree health liabilities prepared by Total Compensation Systems, Inc. for both the Mt. San Antonio College District and Auxiliary Services. In reviewing the District study, Vice President Gregoryk stated that the District is perhaps the best funded in the State at this point in time, and explained the difference between revocable and irrevocable trusts, and the "pay as you go" costs. He stated that the actuary will develop and present options for the Board to review at the April Board meeting, and planned to bring a final recommendation to the Board for its approval in July. Vice President Gregoryk explained that the JPA and the County have been managing these funds up to this point and agreed with Trustee Chen Haggerty's suggestion that one way to circumvent the county's control would be to place these funds in an irrevocable trust. Trustees Chyr and Bader both asked whether it was possible for the State to "tap the coffers" of well funded districts in time of need. Mr. Gregoryk stated that funds placed into an irrevocable trust are untouchable.

3. STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS UPDATE

Vice President Gregoryk said that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for our new system went out in December of 2005 and closed January 2006. Two vendors' systems met the College's qualifications: SunGard's SCT Banner and Datatel's Colleague. With help from Strata Information Group and nine employee teams that were established, functionality scripts were developed and completed in February. These two vendors will be on campus in late March and early April to provide demonstrations of their Enterprise Application Systems to the nine teams and the campus community. SunGard will present the week of March 20, and Datatel will present the week of April 3. Mr. Gregoryk invited the Board to attend both vendor presentations. He said it was his hope to have a recommendation to President O'Hearn in June so that a final recommendation can be submitted to the Board in July. This would enable the beginning stages of implementation as early as August of this year. Mr. Gregoryk emphasized the enormity of this undertaking and how impressed he has been with the enthusiasm and positive spirit College employees have shown during this process. He reiterated that this new system will be totally comprehensive, and that an implementation timeline, by department, is being established. The goal is to begin implementation in the Student Services areas.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Vice President Gregoryk distributed information regarding the 2005-06 Adopted Budget Revenue, Expenditures, and a preliminary 2006-07 Tentative Budget. He stated the College's fiscal position for 2005-06 was positive, and we will possibly go over cap. It is possible we will have a balanced budget, quite possibly a surplus, and will be able to fund the new information system within two years. Regarding the new system, Trustee Chen Haggerty wondered how much it will cost down the road to keep the system updated. Vice President Gregoryk stated that there will be ongoing costs, but that we will be careful to keep customizing to a minimum in order to avoid major updates.

Mr. Gregoryk stated that even though we are in a good position for 2005-06, in 2006-07 we will need to be cautious not to spend before we realize growth. We want to avoid deficit spending. Trustee Hall reminded everyone that while the Governor's budget this year proved more beneficial for community colleges, next year's budget might not bring the same good news. He stated that we need to be diligent in keeping our reserves healthy, staying at or above the 10% level, and added that when times are good we should make the effort to save. Vice President Nixon reinforced what Vice President Gregoryk mentioned regarding growth. He stated that enrollment is low across the state, that our enrollment at this point is flat, and that the trend for 2006-07 is not good. We'll need to concentrate on growth efforts through marketing and outreach. Mt. SAC has been fortunate in that we have so many feeder high schools within our district. For years the students came to Mt. SAC without a great marketing/outreach effort. Times are changing, and issues such as K-12 graduation rates, the California High School Exit Exam, the economy, and community demographics need to be looked at closer for recruiting purposes.

Regarding the full-time faculty obligation penalty, Mr. Gregoryk has been in touch with his contacts in Sacramento and has not heard much to hint at which way the Board of Governors will vote. Professor Long voiced that Mt. SAC would not gain from the imposition of a penalty. Dr. Hall stated that the fact that we fell below because of voluntary retirement should not warrant a penalty, when all parties were in agreement. Seven other districts are facing the prospect of this penalty, and Dr. Baca wondered how the testimony was received by the Board of Governors. Dr. O'Hearn stated that he initially thought the Board would be

in agreement with the Chancellor's recommendation, but that testimony from other speakers led the Board to request additional data and perhaps a shift in their thought. He stated that representatives from the Academic Senate, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the California Teachers Association (CTA) all spoke in support of imposing the penalty.

5. CURRICULUM

Dr. Nixon stated that in response to the Board's request, he worked with the Instruction Team to develop a report on the current status and future direction of the seven instructional divisions. This report was distributed to Board members and President O'Hearn. This report included summaries from each division related to their course and program offerings, and planning efforts related to weak, strong or new programs. Dr. Nixon also included within this report information regarding two new College initiatives, and documentation related to our newly implemented initiatives, Planning for Institutional Effectiveness (PIE) and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

Vice President Nixon mentioned once again that our enrollment is stable, or "flat." There is high demand in the core subjects, less in the occupational programs. Enrollment in the areas of manufacturing technology, computer science, electronics has declined, but we have seen growth in the areas of hospitality, nutrition and culinary. Noncredit growth has been experienced in basic skills, older adult and ESL.

Dr. Nixon stated our challenge will be the underprepared student and mentioned the two initiatives included in the report he distributed. Both of these grants deal with institutional reform and how Mt. SAC will meet the needs of the underprepared student. He said that we are moving to instill a sense of community in the first year freshman experience through the "Learning Communities." He mentioned that Mt. SAC was one of nine community colleges selected as recipients of the Pre-Nursing/Health Career Learning Community grant (SSPIRE Initiative), and was listed as submitting the top proposal.

The third section of the report details the purpose and responsibility of both the SLO/AUO Implementation Team and the Institutional Effectiveness Committee, and the Planning for Institutional Effectiveness (PIE) process. Dr. Nixon stated that the development of SLOs is tied to instruction, rooted in our accreditation process. Our PIE process is an on-going, portfolio-approach process. Dr. Nixon said that he was happy to provide the Board with this report and appreciated their thoughtful request regarding the status and future of instruction/curriculum.

Discussion followed regarding statewide enrollment trends and how to better market and outreach to future students. Dr. Hall offered the fact that we need to plug into the growth that is happening right in our neighborhood, City of Industry. The growth of industry in this area should be tapped into by our faculty, advisory committees, marketing areas. We need to let these employers know what Mt. SAC can offer them and suggest ways in which we can partner. He mentioned that two-thirds of the new corporations in this area are Asian-owned and wanted to make sure that these business owners know that we are training students in the areas of entry level logistics/warehousing/warehouse distribution. Dr. Hall mentioned that a new fire station is also being built in the City of Industry area and that the captain has offered Mt. SAC fire science students the use of some of the facility. Dr. Nixon will investigate the possibilities for partnership.

6. COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE

President O'Hearn asked the Board for direction concerning support of this initiative. He explained that this is an effort that the Community College League of California and the California Community College Trustees is co-sponsoring, to be placed on the November statewide ballot. The goal of this initiative would be to stabilize funding and student fees and would change the funding formula for community colleges, making it based on our own growth instead of being tied to K-12. Dr. O'Hearn stated that in order to get this initiative on the ballot for November, there is a cost, and districts have been assigned individual fundraising goals based on their enrollment. Mt. SAC's goal has been set at \$50,000. Trustee Chyr asked about the source of the new funding should the Initiative pass, and Dr. O'Hearn explained that funding will still come from Proposition 98 dollars, but that we will get a larger share, due to declining K-12 enrollment. Board members reviewed information provided by the Community College League, and discussion followed regarding fundraising efforts, and how best to meet our goal of \$50,000. Student Trustee McKay stated that he was in favor of supporting this initiative as it will benefit the community college student. The Board unanimously agreed to participate in fundraising efforts in support of the Community College Funding Stabilization and Student Fee Reduction Act of 2006.

7. 60th ANNIVERSARY

President O'Hearn described planned activities, and stated that Mt. SAC's 60th Anniversary year-long celebration will officially kick off at this year's commencement. The two main events scheduled thus far are the anniversary gala which is scheduled to be held at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in October, and the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Sophia B. Clarke Theater, honoring Sophia Clarke for her many contributions to the College. Dr. O'Hearn reminded the Board that a new 60th anniversary logo has been developed to be used on all College marketing and information media. Our fundraising goal for the gala event has been set at \$150,000, of which \$51,000 has been raised so far.

8. TEN-YEAR VISION

Board President Chen Haggerty offered her view on the direction she believes the College should move toward during the next ten years. She restated the fact that the change in demographics and the global economy will force us to think in terms of being a leader in the commercial arena and international development. We cannot ignore the fact that, as Dr. Hall stated, we are in such close proximity to the City of Industry's boom of Asian/China-owned businesses, and we must position ourselves to be a source of support. Outreach to the foreign student, developing/recruitment through our ESL program, and even establishing a true international student center were discussed. Dr. Baca suggested that he would like to see a comprehensive plan to establish an international student program. He also commented that when speaking of changes in demographics, the Hispanic/Latin American population has also increased, and Trustee Bader concurred. Trustee Chen Haggerty stated that the foreign student is our "hidden treasure."

In addition to a greater focus on international students, Dr. Hall suggested that we might want to consider supporting a bond measure for 2008. He cited that the existing Board members and administrative team were ideally suited to support such an effort. He also reminded the Board that several buildings planned for in Measure R could not be funded due to rising construction costs. Dr. O'Hearn agreed to begin discussion about a possible bond measure with his Cabinet.

9. ANNUAL BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

President O'Hearn distributed a compiled survey of responses from Board Members to questions regarding the Board's areas of strengths, and those areas they thought needed improvement. Dr. O'Hearn pointed out the fact that members of the campus leadership were in attendance at this meeting, which speaks to the high regard the campus community has for this Board.

Dr. Hall stated he would like to see improvement to this Board's visibility within the Mt. SAC district community. He would like to see more Board meetings at off-campus locations, out in the communities we serve, possibly at different city hall locations. It was agreed that plans would be made to set Baldwin Park as the first city in which to hold an off-campus meeting of the Board of Trustees, and that our Marketing & Communication department could assist in advertising this meeting to the public.

Trustee Bader asked if there could be some formal process for identifying which Board members will be attending various College events. President O'Hearn stated that a coordinated effort to monitor Board participation at events would create a huge workload for the office staff. It was agreed that Board participation was high and he believes that the College feels well supported by this Board.

Ideas for greater outreach to our K-12 districts included revising the Annual Joint Board meeting to a breakfast meeting, and perhaps giving the invited superintendents and Boards more input into the event, i.e., opportunities to give presentations on their individual districts, making this event an opportunity for a true informational exchange with our feeder districts.

President O'Hearn added that a great success of this Board and administration is the fact that we will soon have a balanced budget.

10. CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 5:06 p.m. to discuss the following item:

- Public employee performance – President/CEO, discussion of goals, pursuant to Government Code 54957

11. PUBLIC SESSION

The public meeting reconvened at 5:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

CCO:lc