YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING
April 25, 2012
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Gene Bianchi Community Center

AGENDA

Facilitator: Joan E. Smith
Recorder: Graciela Molina

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of March 28, 2012
2. College Mission Statement for Accreditation
3. Budget Updates
4. Year in Review
5. Other Items

★ Attachments

Next DC Meeting – August 22, 2012 – TBD
Members Present: Raelene Juarez, Rhonda Green, Dennis Gervin, Joan Smith, Jeff Swank, Mary Retterer, Rosanne Faughn, Rose LaMont

Members Absent: Gene Womble, Jillian Daly, Stephen Stroud, Adrienne Peek

Other’s Present: Teresa Scott, Gina Rose, Nick Stavrianoudakis, Diane Wirth, Graciela Molina (recorder)

Meeting called to order at 2:56 p.m. in Oakdale at the Gene Bianchi Community Center, Conference Room 1.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of February 22, 2012
   Rose LaMont made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2012, and it was seconded by Raelene Juarez. District Council members voted all in favor to approve the minutes.

2. Mission Statement for Accreditation
   Chancellor Joan Smith informed DC members of the Yosemite Community College District Recommendation #2 from the Accrediting Commission and asked DC members to take the missions back to their colleges and councils for discussion. The accreditation report has to be completed before the fall and she plans to begin writing the report in May.

   Action Items:
   • Discuss missions within the college councils and constituencies.

3. Budget Updates
   a. Central Services
      The District’s portion of the $2.8 million deficit is $775k. The District has been working with Human Resources, Information Technology and Central Services to determine where to make necessary cuts. The primary bulk of cuts are coming from the open positions. The formal positions are not being eliminated however they are not being funded. The District has yet to identify the increased energy cost and rate increases; the most recent estimate is about $250k. With new facilities coming online there lies an extreme facilities staffing need and their operating budget need is about $250k which has been severely cut. It was reported that energy and facilities operations is a funding exposure we have and will have to address in the near future.

   a. Columbia College
      President Dennis Gervin reported that Columbia College’s portion of the $2.8 million deficit is $420k. Personnel costs are going up about $40k and overall are experiencing a $1.4 million gap. Columbia College is holding college-wide forums to continue dialogue regarding the budget. They have addressed most of the deficit with the exception of about $250k. The college hopes that as budgets close this year, there will be at least $150k
carryover which will address all but $100k that will need to be identified. President Gervin invited the group to view the information the college has made available online.

a. Modesto Junior College

Interim President Mary Retterer stated she asked the divisions and departments to provide a priority list that addresses their needs (i.e., cannot do without, must have, and could lose if had to). Information will be compiled onto a spreadsheet to view from a college perspective for future discussion. Some areas like library staffing will be held harmless however, the rest of the division is not. The information will be reviewed the next two Friday’s.

Chancellor Joan Smith provided information regarding YCCD’s declining budget; a few years ago the district’s total budget was $115 million and now with all cuts the budget is at $79 million. She stated that if the tax ballot does not pass then the budget will be reduced to $75 million; additional funding may arise due to RDA. Chancellor Smith stated the District does not have additional pockets of money; we were hit hard last year due to the lack of reserves and the health benefit increase. She addressed FTES reduction, the state cutting back services and the services we provide as a district. She asked leadership to think about what our operation will look like with our new reality/perspective. Chancellor Smith stated the good news is that we have reserves and have something to fall back on; Cabinet held back filling positions which provided funding to cover reductions. She reminded DC members that reserves are onetime money, however the costs are ongoing.

Chancellor Joan Smith pointed out another issue, new bond projects, every time we bring a new building online we have new expenses; we cannot stop building but need to address costs with existing funding. She discussed the impact of cuts being made at the District and stated we need to be careful to not impact the colleges and pose a double hit. Chancellor Smith informed DC members that she is collaborating with CEOS on a weekly basis and noted the effects being felt statewide. Discussion ensued regarding taxes, 50% rule, and FTO/FON. In response to inquiries by Rose LaMont, Chancellor Smith confirmed that if the tax ballot does not pass then community colleges will endure additional cuts; in addition, our reserves are being spent down in light of the reductions. Cuts have been coming so fast and furious there has been no time to stabilize. She stated we cannot dismantle to the extent that when an upswing occurs we are not able to provide the services needed by the community.

Chancellor Joan Smith reported that she and President Gervin attended the Northern California CEO Conference. They were provided information regarding the additional $147 million statewide cut and were informed that the LAO is starting to research classes being offered to life-long learners. The state of California is denying students due to the lack of funding. Chancellor Joan Smith stated that there will have to be concessions from the Chancellor on down or else we will not make it through this year; the good news when things turn around there will be an upswing and we the district will get through it. The State Chancellor’s Office is opposing Santa Monica’s plan to charge $200 per unit for courses; the State says this denies open access. Chancellor Joan Smith has been advocating to the State on behalf of community colleges; has sent several letters to legislators, and is in communication with CCLC. She noted the reduction or acceptances at the California State Universities and stated students will be seeking education at the community colleges.
4. Policy & Procedures Update

Nick Stavrianoudakis provided an update on Policy and Procedures. He pulled Policy 3440 from the discussion and reviewed each draft with DC members. Policy 5040 - the procedure language was proposed by the Foundation. Policy 5550 - a suggestion to remove the word “unreasonably” from section IV.E in the procedure was made. Policy 6220 - the new procedure addresses withdrawals and course repetitions; language was provided by Martha Robles and Melissa Raby. Policy 3440 - further information needs to be added and was pulled from the discussion. Policy 4518 - is a new policy. Nick Stavrianoudakis stated that a summer project will be to renumber YCCD policies to match CCLC sequencing.

5. Tentative 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule

Chancellor Joan Smith reported that April 25, is the last scheduled meeting for the academic year; if the need for arises for an emergency meeting during the summer one will be scheduled. The Chancellor’s Office will keep in communication with membership, as needed. DC reviewed the tentative meeting schedule and a correction was noted - March 27, 2013. DC membership approved the FY 2012-2013 meeting schedule, as amended.

6. Other Items

Chancellor Joan Smith had planned to discuss the topic of planning; however, the current budget has diverted most of her time and direction. District wide planning will be addressed in the fall. Accreditation and budget will be the focus of the last DC meeting.

Chancellor Smith extended appreciation to the leadership of DC and their efforts in working with their constituency groups. She reported this has been a great year and thanked DC members for their service.

The District Council meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.
Members Present: Raelene Juarez, Rhonda Green, Dennis Gervin, Joan Smith, Jeff Swank, Mary Retterer, Rose LaMont, Jillian Daly, Stephen Stroud

Members Absent: Kelly Acridge, Gene Womble, Adrienne Peek, Rosanne Faughn

Other’s Present: John Zamora, Diane Wirth, Graciela Molina (recorder)

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. in Oakdale at the Gene Bianchi Community Center, Conference Room 1.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of March 28, 2012
   A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 28, 2012 was made by Interim President Mary Retterer and seconded by Jeff Swank. District Council members voted all in favor to approve the minutes.

2. College Mission Statement for Accreditation
   Both college councils at Modesto Junior College and Columbia College have agreed to align their respective college missions with that of the Yosemite Community College District Mission.

3. Budget Updates
   Chancellor Joan Smith reported the budget continues to be a moving target; there is nothing new to present. On Monday, a group of Chancellor’s is scheduled to meet with Sacramento representatives to advocate on behalf of community colleges. Advocacy has been tiresome, but we are not giving up. Stephen Stroud thanked the Chancellor for her advocacy on behalf of the District and community colleges. Chancellor Joan Smith reported she has drafted a partial response to a previous article in the Bee regarding subsidizing student classes saying that we cannot let these things go unanswered. Gina Rose is gathering data to provide back-up facts to the response.
   Chancellor Smith reported on the presidential search. The Board has narrowed the selection down to two finalists and reference checks are being conducted. Chancellor Smith reported that the candidates interviewed with the committee, participated in community forums, and interviews with the Board and Chancellor.
   Chancellor Joan Smith reported that the May Revise typically comes in around May 15th; Prop 25 encourages legislators to provide a timely State budget. She stated DC meetings will be scheduled during the summer, if necessary. Discussion ensured regarding PTOL and reserves. She reported the State is “deferring” funds and putting a strain on the District. Yosemite CCD is holding onto reserves, and hopes to hold 3-4 months of payroll in case the State does not provide us funding. Discussion ensued regarding accreditation, the commission, Measure E bonds and deferrals. In addition, this year the District addressed the issue of vacation accrual liability and in order to address increase in utilities across the District, Dr. Smith has been looking into solar options.
Chancellor Smith encouraged this group to continue being the voice, carrying information to and from their constituency groups. Next year she would like to address class scheduling and will be working with Presidents, VPs and deans on efficiencies and summer utilities. Also, there is a need to address where the District is at fiscally today with respect to the Measure E Bond. For example, rather than creating a new building, IT may need to move their department to John Muir in order to address MJC space utilization. Discussion ensued regarding educational centers. She encouraged discussion within the constituency groups to address these kinds of possibilities. Possible suggestions for the future were offered by DC members: Rent space in lieu of building educational centers; and offer CSU Stanislaus and/or UC Merced opportunities to rent out part of the new Science Building that will come on line soon, generating income for the District. Chancellor Smith reported that the Central Services Master Plan is coming along.

4. Year in Review

Chancellor Joan Smith asked the college to welcome the incoming president. With the existing challenges that currently exist she encouraged DC leadership to establish positive working relationships with the college president. If there are issues to address, make an appointment and discuss them. She stated leadership can provide the opportunity to build trust. Chancellor Smith thanked both college presidents Mary Retterer and Dennis Gervin for their efforts within their colleges. In addition, she thanked the DC leadership for a good year, and looks forward to the new year.

5. Other Items

Vice President of Instruction

Chancellor Smith responded to an inquiry regarding the VPI search stating the search and process is being put together this week with the consultant. It will be announced in a couple of weeks. Dr. James Fay will continue through August or September.

The District Council meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.