Yosemite Community College District

District Council Meeting Minutes

Gene Bianchi Community Center, Conference Room 1

February 25, 2015

Members Present: Debi Bolter, Baljinder Gill, Dorothy Pimentel, Angie Fairchilds, Ted Hamilton, Joan Smith, Jill Stearns, James Todd, Gene Womble, Joan Van Kuren

Members Absent: none

Other's Present: Leslie Buckalew, Coni Chavez, Marty Gang, Gina Leguria, Sarah Schrader, Brenda Thames, Gary Whitfield, Coni Chavez (recorder)

Meeting called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. in Oakdale at the Gene Bianchi Community Center, Conference Room 1.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of January 28, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2015, was made by Ted Hamilton and seconded by James Todd. District Council members approved the minutes with a vote of 9, all in favor.

Ayes: (9) Debi Bolter, Baljinder Gill, Dorothy Pimentel, Angie Fairchilds, Ted Hamilton, Joan Smith, Jill Stearns, James Todd, Gene Womble, Joan Van Kuren

Nayes: (0) None

2. Core Values

Chancellor Joan Smith announced the results of December's extended District Council session regarding core values and guiding principles; results will be sent to the group via email. She asked that District Council representatives gather constituent rankings. This information will be reviewed at the District Council Meeting in March or April, at the latest. Further, Chancellor Smith added the next step will be for District Council to review District “Goals” in fall 2015.

3. Budget Update

Chancellor Joan Smith provided an update on the Budget and informed the group that she and Teresa Scott will visit the campuses to provide an update in April as more information becomes available from the State. Further, it was reported that enrollments at MJC are alright and Columbia has a way to go. While each college is responsible to meet their targets, the District is one in terms of FTES and FTES have been “rolled” forward in the last few years. Moreover, although funding appears to be coming back, it also appears to be coming with accountability measures and in a more prescriptive manner, i.e., block grant allocations. With that, while highly negative budget issues are not anticipated, the District is not in a position to over-spend and is still holding a 10% reserve and dollars to cover to STRS/PERS contributions for two years.

4. President Updates

President Jill Stearns reported that, through funding made available by the IDRC grant, Modesto Junior College will provide “boot camps” with partners to train coders. These training opportunities will benefit current programs and working professionals in our region to achieve certification in coding. President Stearns also provided an update regarding the respiratory care baccalaureate degree recently approved to be offered by MJC. She noted that a late-February visit will be made by CCCCO representatives in preparation for the Board of Governors March meeting. Additional information will be communicated as it becomes available. Lastly, President Stearns reported that MJC’s “Design for Success” efforts were moving forward.
President Angie Fairchilds reported that Columbia College will move to a class schedule that is solely online. In the past, the printed version of the class schedule was generally out-of-date before it was printed. However, it was acknowledged that the document served purposes for which the college is seeking to address: 1. Promotion—a committee has been formed to develop a general college promotional piece; 2. Important dates and access to services are being addressed in the student handbook, which also doubles as a student planner; and 3. Class listings can be printed in a functional format, as needed, and will still be available online in real-time with a button having been placed on the college’s homepage for easier access. President Fairchilds also reported that a Schedule Advisory Group has been formed and will discuss how students can be better supported and served through enrollment management and using, among other information, “lessons learned” from the spring 2015 class cancellations.

5. HR Updates

Vice Chancellor Gina Leguria reported the EEO Committee will hold its first meeting before the spring 2015 term ends; YFA negotiations begin at the end of February; a single equivalency form and process has been developed for both colleges; and, the Benefits Committee work continues—more information will be communicated when it becomes available, but rates will likely not be available for the Committee to consider until May or June.

6. IT Updates

Assistant Vice Chancellor Marty Gang provided an IT update: All areas were represented on the District Technology Advisory Committee (DTAC) and the group will begin work on a Technology Plan to meet District-wide needs; an e-waste program had begun—IT should be informed if staff or a department have e-waste and once an item is considered e-waste, it will not be reconditioned, it will be properly secured and disposed of; a recent voicemail upgrade was completed with no issues; and, Office 365 will soon be implemented District-wide.

7. Other Business

Policies and Procedures – Coni Chavez reported that there are a few board policies and administrative procedures prepared for District Council review. They will be sent via email to Council members or discussed at the next meeting.

Accreditation – Chancellor Joan Smith informed Council members that the next comprehensive accreditation for Columbia College and MJC will occur in fall 2017. Further, while accreditation is under the purview of the colleges, Central Services will work with the colleges in their respective areas, such as IT and HR, in preparation of the report. Additionally discussion was held with the possibility of a component to address adult education and MJC’s baccalaureate degree.

Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research – Chancellor Smith reported that a candidate had been selected to move forward for Board approval and, pending Board approval, will start at the District on April 1, 2015.

Faculty Representative to the Board – Debi Bolter, YFA President, reported that it is anticipated that a faculty representative to the Board will be recommended in the 2015-2016 academic year.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the District Council will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 3 p.m. in Oakdale at the Gene Bianchi Community Center – Conference Room 1.

The District Council meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.