EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
Meeting Held March 3, 2010

PRESENT: Bea Cashmore, Susanne Chan, Amy Edwards, Mary Ellen Goodwin, Nicole Gray, Richard Hansen, Meredith Heiser, MaryAnne Ifft, Zaki Lisha, Roger Mack, Anne Paye, Bob Pierce, Tim Shively, Alan Simes, Chris Storer, Kathy Terry, Laurel Torres.

ABSENT: Karen Erickson.

M/S Agenda approved as written with deletion of FH PaRC report on item 6. Vote unanimous.

M/S Minutes approved as written. Vote unanimous.

M/S Financial Statements approved as written. Vote unanimous.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Consultation Council: Hansen reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that California Community College’s Chancellor Jack Scott had signed with Kaplan University was added to the agenda of the February 18 Consultation Council meeting because of the concern it had generated. Scott said that his action was intended to open more opportunities for community college students in light of the budget crisis, and that he understood that the MOU was not without precedent. Hansen noted that the precedent to which Scott alluded was an MOU signed with National University by a previous chancellor, Mark Drummond. Scott was unaware that Drummond’s action had generated similar concerns. Scott has agreed to form a group of CIOs, faculty, and other appropriate individuals to review the agreement, which can be negated with appropriate notice to Kaplan University.

Chancellor’s Advisory Council (CAC): Newly appointed Chancellor Linda Thor chaired her first CAC meeting on February 19 and stressed her long history with, and continued commitment to, shared governance. Thor noted the high level of participation and dedication that she had already observed from district faculty and staff.

The Strategic Plan was also on the CAC agenda and agreement has been reached that it will include a ratio goal of FTES per non-instructional staff. This will meet the interest of classified staff for inclusion of a component in support of their piece of the district enterprise. Hansen reminded the Council that he suggested the ratio goal as a less divisive alternative to the prior proposal of placing an upper cap on the percentage to be spent on instruction. Since counselors, librarians and other non-instructional faculty will also be included in this ratio goal when it is finalized, it will help to meet their needs as well. FA also got support to have the Seventy-five Percent full-time faculty goal included in the Strategic Plan.

Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) Conference: Hansen attended FACCC’s Advocacy and Policy Conference and reported that both the training and lobby day components were great successes. Many students attended this year, and their
participation helped to energize the event. Hansen noted, however, that the dismal state of the budget and the inability of friendly legislators to take any action because of the 2/3-vote requirement on the budget and tax legislation left the overall lobby day experience quite frustrating.

Board of Trustees: The newly tenured faculty were honored at the March 1 Board of Trustees meeting and many family members attended to celebrate the occasion. Also, it was reported that the District budget is now showing a $2.4 million surplus in unrestricted funds for 2009-10. Much of this additional revenue has been generated by an increase in faculty productivity, which was budgeted at 540 but currently stands at 580. Hansen stated to the Board that this money should be used to add classified staff positions to the list of those “escrowed” through June 30, 2011.

Professional Development Leaves for two more faculty, as well as those for classified and confidential staff were approved. Trustee Bruce Swensson questioned, once again, why these leaves were still going ahead in the face of layoffs. Hansen noted that preventing these leaves would mean that a small group of employees would have to take the brunt of the budget hit. Additionally, he pointed out that the leaves provided training opportunities that benefit the District.

Hansen inquired about an item on the Consent Calendar that indicated $1,000 was being transferred from Matriculation to EOPS on each campus. The District responded that it was necessary to make such a transfer by April 15 in order to trigger the relief from reporting mandates being permitted by the state and the flexibility to shift funds among categorical areas. Hansen stated that the flexibility option was supposed to be discussed publicly and not sit buried in the Consent Calendar. He noted that it is questionable policy to make these token shifts of funds simply in order to get out of reporting mandates.

De Anza Instructional Planning and Budgeting Team (IPBT): The IPBT is looking into the reduction of reassigned time at De Anza. Interviews have been scheduled for all day on Friday, March 12 to gather information about the current reassigned time recipients. The IPBT will use this data to create a set of criteria for making future allocations.

Multicultural Staff Association (MSA): Cynthia Kaufman, President of the MSA, read the group’s Solidarity Statement to the Board of Trustees at the March 1 meeting and provided them with a copy of the document. The MSA also met with FA on February 18 and has asked that the organization endorse the Solidarity Statement. The Executive Council discussed the request, and it was suggested that FA write a statement of its own on the issues raised by the MSA.

M/S that the FA staff bring a draft statement back to the Executive Council. Vote unanimous.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Chief Negotiator Anne Paye reported that FA and the District were still working on putting together a table indicating the respective interests on the 2010-13 Agreement. “Guiding
“Principles,” agreed to by FA and the District in 1998, have still not come to the table. These principles, which include agreement on creating a joint set of minutes from negotiations sessions should still be in effect, according to FA legal counsel, because they haven’t been negotiated away.

Article 25, Special Assignments, is one of FA’s main interests for the 2010-13 Agreement. Since FA’s stated interest has been presented at the same time that a thorough review of all faculty reassigned time is being undertaken by De Anza, some faculty have erroneously concluded that FA is working with the administration in deciding where the cuts will be made. Paye noted that FA is in no way involved in making these decisions; however, FA is interested in using the associated data to help create a formula under Article 25 to compensate faculty on both campuses equitably for such additional duties.

Paye noted that FA has been hearing criticism over District correction of some contract violations that have recently come to light. These include large loads under Article 26, Summer Sessions, excessive overloads under Article 7, Part-time Faculty, and special scheduling arrangements under Article 18, Reduced Workload. Paye stated that FA was being blamed for harming the faculty who had been benefiting from these arrangements. In fact, FA was simply working with the District to make sure that the provisions of the Agreement were being applied equitably to all faculty.

Article 18, Reduced Workload, was discussed extensively at the last Executive Council meeting after it was discovered that the scheduling provisions had been misinterpreted in a few instances at De Anza. Paye reported on the range of loads and how those loads among the 11 faculty who are currently on Article 18. It was discovered that only three of these faculty had scheduling misapplications and, since plans had already been approved, it was decided in Contract Review to let them continue in their established patterns for one more year.

DE ANZA COLLEGE COUNCIL

SLO Coordinators Jim Haynes and Coleen Lee-Wheat gave a presentation on all the myriad components of the accreditation cycle at the February 25 De Anza College Council meeting. Hansen noted that the presentation was very effective at demonstrating how the different elements affected each other and the importance of establishing an accreditation routine that takes place over a longer period than the current concentration on the last two years of the cycle.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bob Pierce stated that the legislature was working to overturned the Windfall Elimination Provision, which reduces the social security payments of anyone who receives a pension under CalSTRS. Pierce noted that he would get out information on contacting legislators to support this effort.

Susanne Chan reported on faculty concerns over a proposal, from De Anza’s new Vice President of Student Services, Stacey Cook, for a “realignment” of counseling-related services.