EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
Meeting Held May 5, 2010

PRESENT: Bea Cashmore, Amy Edwards, Karen Erickson, Mary Ellen Goodwin, Nicole Gray, Richard Hansen, Meredith Heiser, MaryAnne Ifft, Zaki Lisha, Roger Mack, Sam McPherson, Anne Paye, Bob Pierce, Tim Shively, Alan Simes, Chris Storer.

ABSENT: Susanne Chan, Laurel Torres.

M/S Agenda approved as written. Vote unanimous.

M/S Minutes approved as written. Vote unanimous.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Benefits Open Enrollment: Hansen thanked the Executive Council for their efforts in contributing to the 100 percent employee completion rate during the benefits open enrollment period. Hansen noted that it had been down to the last minute for a small number of faculty.

Welcome of New Council Member: Part-time Foothill English instructor Sam McPherson was welcomed to his first Executive Council meeting. McPherson is a spring quarter replacement for Kathy Terry who had to step off the Council due to a scheduling conflict.

Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) Elections: Hansen noted that no formal announcement had been made yet of the FACCC election results, but he was happy to announce that Dennis Frisch had been elected president. Frisch, who was endorsed by FA’s PAC, received a substantial majority in an election that had a larger-than-normal number of voters.

California Community College Independents (CCCI) Conference: CCCI’s Spring Conference was held in Sacramento April 29 - May 1 and was attended by representatives from each of the 13 independent districts except for Ohlone. The agenda included a presentation from a partner in a lobbying firm. CCCI has been contemplating hiring a lobbyist, but members voiced concern about how this would impact FACCC. Three of the independent districts, including Foothill-De Anza, have contract memberships with FACCC, the statewide professional organization that advocates for faculty in Sacramento. After discussion it was decided to move ahead to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a CCCI lobbyist that would augment FACCC by providing another voice specific to the concerns of community college faculty. Meanwhile each member district is tasked with exploring how much it could contribute and the source of those additional funds. FA will look into the possibility of using its PAC to cover its own portion.

Lenny Goldberg, Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association, gave a presentation on funding public service through taxation, a topic that was potentially controversial but received strong support. Goldberg made a compelling point about how the
state’s property tax revenue that had been evenly split between business and residential interests prior to Proposition 13 was now heavily shifted toward the residential side.

Negotiator reports from each district indicated that all are under duress because of the current economic crisis, but so far the overall effect has been tolerable. Additional cuts in the coming year or continued economic decline could result in considerable long term damage to both programs and working conditions.

Board of Trustees: District strategic and budget plans were approved at the May 3 Board of Trustees meeting. Student body budgets were presented with DASB monitoring $1 million and ASFC $534,000 in funds.

Board of Governors: SB 1440, the transfer degree bill, was reviewed at the May 3 Board of Governors meeting. If enacted, this bill would loosely define the elements of a core transferable associate’s degree comprised of 60 semester or 90 quarter units that the community college districts would define locally while meeting IGETC requirements. The CSU campuses would then be required to accept these degrees without the addition of their own requirements for transfer as a junior. This could represent a major step in terms of intersegmental respect for the community college curriculum. At this point, the Community College Academic Senate remains reluctant to support such legislative influence over curriculum, and the CSU Academic Senate has shown some resistance to the proposal.

Accreditation Report: Community college leadership groups are getting very energized about the problems of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The statewide Academic Senate passed two major resolutions on the issue. The first threatened a vote of no confidence in the ACCJC if no action is taken to correct the problems that have been identified by the Consultation Council Accreditation Task Force. The second resolution initiates an investigation into the adoption of an alternative accreditation agency. Other groups have suggested an investigation into violations by the organization of its own processes and by-laws and a legislative audit of the additional costs generated by imposition of the new accreditation standards.

Instructional Planning and Budget Team (IPBT): With district budget news showing additional year-end balances, the IPBT at De Anza is lobbying the district to forego any further cuts to faculty reassigned time.

Bay Faculty Association (BFA): FA attorney Robert Bezemek attended the April 26 BFA meeting and spoke about the assault on Freedom of Speech taking place on many campuses. Bezemek cited the case of student protests at Southwestern College in which both students and faculty were banned from the campus after the protest moved outside the designated “free speech area.” Bezemek noted that the Community College League may be driving this behavior by suggesting language for board policies that limit free speech activities. He urged the group to keep an eye out for these types of restrictions in their own districts.

**DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE**

Chief Negotiator Anne Paye stated that the first good news in three years had been delivered
at the May 4 District Budget meeting. The district reported that they have a balanced budget for 2010-11 built on using an ending balance of almost $26 million for 2009-10 together with an Internal Service/Benefits Fund of $13 million to cover unanticipated needs and any increase in the cost of health benefits. The 2010-11 budget incorporates the cost of all Professional/Staff Development Leaves, step and column increases, and the final move to 77.5 percent of the full-time salary rate for part-time instructional faculty.

The May revise of the state budget may not bring such good news since revenue is low, based on the April tax returns. However, on April 27, Governor Schwarzenegger met with leaders from UC, CSU, and community colleges during the Inter-segmental Lobby Day and pledged to veto any budget that gave higher education less money than he allocated in his January plan.

Controller Hector Quinonez expressed great excitement in the new Banner system, but noted that it will take time to settle in. Quinonez stated that the prior system had been patched together and customized for the district’s needs. Banner can also be customized once the basic structure is up and running. ETS is currently working out bugs in the Financial and Human Resources components of the program while undertaking the substantial amount of training and assistance required by system users.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Paye reported that more than three hours of the last negotiation session had been spent looking at Banner and deciding how the screens should appear when faculty log in to approve their Article 7 assignments. Paye noted that, while this is an important issue, it did not warrant the cost in terms of time and personnel to have the full district and FA negotiating teams dedicated to the task. Very little else was accomplished during the session, although the District had made minor responses to some of FA’s drafts. This includes tenuous assurance that the District will approve the State Disability Insurance (SDI) option for part-time faculty once they are certain that no employer costs are attached.

PART-TIME REPORT

Associate Secretary for Part-time Faculty Interests Mary Ellen Goodwin reported that she had attended an exploratory meeting of the State Chancellor’s Office Part-time Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of representatives from the bargaining units, part-time faculty interest groups, FACCC, and the Academic Senate under a proposal from the state chancellor to address the specific concerns of part-time faculty in the community colleges. Goodwin said that the committee has the potential to professionalize the institutional role of part-time faculty.

Goodwin stated that she has been hearing from some faculty enrolled in FACCC’s Delta Dental plan that they were having problems communicating with JC Insurance, the underwriter of the plan. Goodwin and FACCC Executive Director Jonathan Lightman spoke at length with the coordinator of the program at JC Insurance who promised to improve responsiveness. Goodwin requested that faculty contact her at (650) 949-7746 or goodwinmaryellen@fhda.edu to report any problems they are experiencing. She noted that
FACCC is also offering a choice of ten different Kaiser group rate plans that are available to all district part-time faculty. These plans provide an option for faculty who do not qualify for district health benefits. Interested faculty should, once again, contact Goodwin for further information.

**FH PaRC/DA COLLEGE COUNCIL**

**Foothill Planning and Resources Council (PARC)**

FA Executive Secretary Karen Erickson reported that she had just come from a Foothill PaRC meeting in which the first six full-time faculty positions were approved for 2011-12. A further seven positions remain on the priority list but no further action will be taken until fall, when the budget picture is clearer.

**De Anza College Council**

Hansen noted that similar activity had occurred at the April 25 De Anza College Council meeting during which eight additional faculty positions had been approved for 2011-12. Additional retirements have prompted several of these openings.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Bea Cashmore stated that Foothill’s Curriculum Committee had expressed disappointment that no FA representative had attended their May 4 meeting that was focused on Faculty Service Areas (FSAs). Hansen reported that FA had already been in touch with members of the committee and intended to have at least one staff member at the next meeting in two weeks if the FSA discussion continues.

Hansen reported a Foothill administrator had contacted him about the ACCJC decree that Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) be added to all course green sheets. Hansen responded that FA would probably oppose the requirement as a violation of the faculty member’s academic freedom. De Anza administrators have indicated that the college will not be enforcing the provision, but Foothill appears to be going ahead with the mandate. This will be a topic for a future FA/Senate Liaison meeting.