



Town Hall Meeting on the College Budget - APPROVED MINUTES
Thursday, February 12, 2009
1 pm, FA-100

Academic Excellence in Tough Times: Challenges and Opportunities

CC members attending: B. Anders, E. Gnehm, S. Jeter-Williams, F. Leonard, J. Oester, R. Patterson, B. Regalado, A. Rodriguez, M. Rocha, O. Shewfelt, B. Sprague, R. Tillberg

Special guest: Chancellor Drummond

Members of the college community

- I. Fran called the meeting to order shortly after 1 pm. She welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Rocha who then introduced Chancellor Drummond, who needed to leave before 2 p.m. for another appointment.
- II. Dr. Drummond mentioned milestones such as Props A, AA and Measure J for the LACCD. Change has occurred across the District moving away from “going it alone” with little communication and coordination among colleges to collective efforts to seek out innovative programs in career-tech that, as a region, can leverage opportunities while avoiding duplication of effort.
 - A. Plans to hire full-time faculty continue in a climate that replaces enrollment reaction with enrollment management. He notes that colleges that grow are vibrant and successful, have ideas and discussions about recruiting students, including partnerships with K-12, career tech and transfer.
 - B. West, a “model” college,” has focused on being both efficient and effective in programming and scheduling and getting students through our programs.
 - C. The District and its colleges stand to be beneficiaries of the federal stimulus package, including short-term training to a job, which, in turn, is a step in a career ladder. Other possibilities include: summer youth programs for 12th graders, students employed in middle schools who may then become educators.
 - D. With the state budget paralyzed and drops in tax revenue, we may very well see cuts to categorical programs such as EOPS and DSPS. Yet, we will focus on the May revise and hope to stabilize next year. The “18-month-solution” is good for 3 months.
 - E. Other opportunities being looked at: generating private revenue streams, such as out-of-state students, the LAX satellite to serve union members/workers who serve hotels.
 - F. Other important developments include transforming the District Budget Committee (DBC, co-chaired by Dr. Rocha) into a policy-making committee so that decisions aren’t made in isolation.
 - G. We inherited a flawed method of allocation where distribution of funds/reduction in funds was done proportionally among the colleges. This needs to be reconsidered. Distribute funds to encourage/support growth and designate some for program improvement ideas, such as 2-3 year projects for innovation.

- H. West, on the brink of profit/loss is a “model” college, much like East LA and LA Pierce Colleges.
 - I. Olga asked about the 75/25 obligation for faculty. The Chancellor reiterated Intentions to hire more full-time faculty, moving from 1400 to 1600, 200 more, including 8 or 9 at West. At a minimum, replace all retirements and look at the faculty obligation by college rather than as a District.
- III. After the Chancellor left, Dr. Rocha noted that West has not balanced our budget this year, nor will we next year, but we “draw the line at lay-offs.” We are still a million “in the hole,” but we will get through this. While there may be some regression now, the college continues its efforts to seek revenue opportunities.
- A. John Oester distributed a handout, the Operating Statement dated 2/11/09, the Deficit Reduction Plan and the West Los Angeles College Budget Management Plan, effective January 1, 2009, and until further notice, which was approved by the College Council Executive Committee on January 22, 2009. These include
 1. Purchasing freeze
 2. Travel freeze
 3. No “petty cash” reimbursements
 4. Hiring freeze for all positions funded by the 10100 general fund, including student workers and temporary workers.
 5. Restriction on overtime
 6. Freeze on Presidential Set-Aside funds
 7. Over-Budget restriction
 8. Class scheduling efficiency and reduction of planned sections for Sp 09
 9. Revised Summer 09 Session
 10. Revenue: parking
Regarding parking, John noted that we have an excess of 168 spaces even at peak parking periods. Devices for parking passes (\$20/semester or \$1/day) are due to be operational next Monday. If not, the college will extend the moratorium on parking fines
 - B. Dr. Rocha then asked Bob Sprague to speak about other revenue opportunities being explored, such as certificates in computer technology programs. CVS, Northrop Grumman and the probation dept. are expanding hiring. Grant development: with the help of Vice Chancellor Marvin Martinez and in collaboration with LA Harbor and Southwest College, we received \$750,000, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan and the Federal Department of Education’s State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which includes funding for the Regional Health Academy, the LAX site development, and green technology. Funding in these areas is rapidly growing. There are plans to re-energize international education through online service internationally as well as on-campus programs, with the intention of strengthening math and science 2nd-year programs, student life, and the budget. The college also plans to grow fee-based programs and contract ed, which are being worked on by Cari Hildebrandt and Barry Sloan
 - C. Rod commented on the reduction of library hours, increased class sizes impacting classroom management and the need for additional copier services for students. Dr. Rocha asked to consult on library hrs., to come back with a consensus proposal as soon as possible. He suggests getting together to set and renew our principles of classroom management. While high school classes have been cut, West will continue to sustain/build its relationships with high schools over time.
 - D. Sheila asked about the hiring freeze and its impact on classified. Dr. Rocha

re-iterated that there are no lay-offs and looks to this being a temporary, necessary strategy.

Bruce spoke to the principle of the college not packing classes beyond what is feasible for students to learn and for teachers to teach and to adhere to fire ordinances. He said, "I said that the physical capacity of rooms is determined by fire ordinance, and that the college should not pack classes beyond what is feasible for students to learn and for teachers to teach. I asked the president to commit to a research project to determine an optimum class size for teaching and learning in the various academic and vocational disciplines offered here in this college. I also asked that the Senate put this topic on its agenda. I believe that I heard Mark say that he did not want classes to be so large that they inhibit effective teaching and learning."

- E. Dr. Rocha said that decisions to cut classes, thus increasing demand for classes, is "not made in a vacuum" and includes consultation among chairs, deans and the VP in order to manage this process.
- F. **Action: College Council consensus to approve the College Budget Management Plan.**

IV. Accreditation Focused Midterm Report - Dr. Rocha thanked Fran Leonard for leading this effort on behalf of the college. The report is due to the Accrediting Commission by March 15, 2009 that documents West's measurable progress in addressing the Commission's recommendations. All signatories have signed the report, which is now going to print for review by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 25th. The report is posted at West's accreditation webpage. Fran expressed her deep gratitude to the "host of folks" across the college whose thoughtful, collaborative contributions make this report one which Deborah Kaye, district liaison for all college reports, characterized as "Awesome and very impressive," one we can all be proud of. **The College Council accepted the report by consensus.M/P**

The Town Hall meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.