

*AFT- 1521 College Guild, West L.A. College Chapter  
Minutes of Meeting of February 25, 2009*

Attendance: Lloyd Noonan; Othelia Garcia; Leo Lynch; Bruce Anders; Robert Perez; George Agak; Eliose Crippens; Ryan Sandowiz; John Frykenberg; Chiu-Chin Chang; Eliezer Chammou; Seymour Levine; Ali Parsa; Kenneth Taira; Yi-Chen He; Norma Jacinto; Nancy Brambila; Sherry Bridenthal; Leonor Johansen; B. E. Sekiyoba; Susan White; Andy Lim; Betty Jacobs; Vidya Swaminathem; Rosemary Most; Lisa Cain; Robert Sprague; Nancy Sander; Olga Shewfelt

The meeting took place in the auditorium (ATA 128) and concerned adjunct faculty orientation. President Olga Shewfelt convened the meeting at 5:00p.m. We began with introductions.

Budget: Olga noted that the state of California finally passed a budget on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The LACCD is trying to figure out what its effect will have, and it is expected that the budget revision in May will give us specifics. She referred us to the college's Operating Statement. Our funding allocation is based on our Full-time Equivalent Students count (FTES), of 7,925 for the 2008'09 budget year. (By the end of this Spring, our headcount of students could reach 12,000). However, the college will be paid for only 1.43% of its growth in FTES. Next year, we anticipate being paid at a 3% rate; but our enrollment may be 10% - 15% higher, and we will not be paid for all of that.

This year, our reduction from the LACCD may be \$1,145,137. In order to bring the budget closer to a balance, the college has reduced course sections by 20% (\$1,858,938), reducing the shortfall to \$917, 354. It is hoped that this deficit will close further if the May revision of the state's budget is favorable to us.

The message is that while we are growing in terms of absolute numbers of students, we are losing course sections, with the result that classes are growing greatly in size. Per contract, class size average should be 34 students. As our college is organized by Divisions (a Division being a group of academic or vocational disciplines, e.g., history and political science and sociology, etc.) average class size is calculated on a per Division basis.

Olga polled the members present, asking how many Instructors had lost classes, this semester. Over half of those present raised their hands.

Opportunities for Adjunct Faculty: Olga called our attention to the District's Faculty Obligation Number (FON), the number of full-time Instructors necessary to achieve a ratio of 75% - to -25% of full-time to part-time faculty, as required by the state of California. The actual number for the District is 1,461 full-time faculty, and could be as high as 1,609 full-time faculty. This means that there is a potential to hire 169 new faculty to meet the Fall 2009 FON. This means that there is the likelihood of large-scale hiring, especially in the large campuses, such as East and Pierce. Olga also mentioned

current opportunities such as outreach classes in feeder high schools, grants, and online education, especially hybrid courses (on-campus/online).

Grievances: Bruce Anders reported that most recent grievances were about bumping and loss of classes, and about overly large class sizes. He cited Article 16 on seniority rights and pages 7 – 8 in the Adjunct Survival Guide, which summarize that article. He also repeated Olga’s summary of class-size which is calculated per Division. He added that Fire Dept. room capacities must be observed, and gave the opinion that class sizes should not be so large that they negatively affect teaching and learning.

Elections:

Adjuncts elected to represent fellow adjuncts in their divisions are:

Allied Health	Todd Legassick
Aviation and Travel	Marc Mancini
Behavioral and Social Sciences	Ray Shackelford
Business	Lorenzo Ybarra
Computer Science	Kenneth Taira
Dance, Health & Physical Education	Henry Perry
Humanities and Fine Arts	Lucy Blake
Language Arts	Nicholas Smith
Library and Learning Resources	Joshua Stern
Mathematics	Li Hua Lei
Science	Surendra Menon

Olga stated that this was a union project. We had hoped to negotiate a 2-year term, but the best we could get, now, was a one-year term. Those elected representatives should work with their adjunct colleagues and with their Division Chairs. Olga will convene a meeting of the new adjunct representatives to orient them.

SLO Obligations: Appendix C of the contract presents the Evaluation Form for Instructors and requires them to participate in the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) cycle. Olga clarified that adjunct faculty should include one or more of their department’s SLOs in their course syllabus. She stressed that the chair must provide access to a current Title 5 Outline with SLOs and should provide adjunct faculty with the appropriate SLOs for their syllabi.

Health Benefits: In his recent speech to a joint session of Congress, President Obama highlighted three areas of concern and expressed a readiness for action on them: Energy, Education, and Healthcare. In the LACCD, the cost of healthcare benefits have increased by \$25 million this year. Adjunct faculty healthcare benefits are summarized on pages 12-13 of the Adjunct Survival Guide. The union E-Board has urged members to look at alternative means of coverage. Because of rapidly rising healthcare costs, our insurance benefits are likely to be degraded. The union is looking at the Public Employee’s Medical and Hospital Care Act of 2005 (PEMCHA program), delivered through the Cal-

PERS Retirement system. This program could deliver health insurance for about 38% less than the current premiums paid by the LACCD.

Report of VPAA: Bob Sprague, VPAA reported that the college would offer only one Summer session and that the Fall course offerings will be reduced (as were the Spring offerings) in the continuing budget crisis. He acknowledged how difficult these cuts have been for all of us.

Even though the funding requires cuts, capital construction, funded through bond measures is continuing. The college is bringing online a Math-Science Building, new Office space, and a new General Classroom Building. In three years, we will have a new Cinema-Theater building, a second Classroom Building, and Associated Student Organization building and a Wellness Center. By July of this year, we should have a second entrance to the college on Jefferson Blvd. at Leahy.

He also mentioned several fulltime hires (nine) in the last year, and two hired in Specially Funded Programs, for a total of eleven. In the coming year, six to eight new faculty positions will be filled.

Finally, he stated that his door is open and he would welcome visits from and all.

Academic Senate: Eloise Crippens represented the Senate at this meeting. She summarized the Honors/Transfer Program and discussed reimbursement policies for conference attendance and for tuition expenses. All faculty, including adjuncts, are eligible.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.