

AFT 1521 Adjunct Faculty Orientation Meeting

February 16, 2012

Attendance: Angela Orlando; Kevin Farmer; Dianne Fuller; Bernice Filerman; Cellappah Chanmigattia; Arthur B. Naselow; Jennifer Ortiz; Ron Engen; Casey Hunter; Claudio Velasco; Andress Walker; Chuk Amaugo; Art Camplone; Patricia W. Morris; Broderick Jackson; Stephen T. Scott; Tedja Oepomo; Sandi J. Pinio; Lucy Blake; Faz Elahi; Jennifer McIntosh; Lorenzo Ybarra; Olga Shewfelt; Bruce Anders. Guests: Betsy Regalado; Robert Sprague; Aracelly Aguilar; Judith Ann Friedman; Ken Takeda.

It was noted that the elevators to the 4th floor meeting room were not operating.

Chapter President Olga Shewfelt asked those present to introduce themselves.

Olga began the meeting proper with a description and review of the Member Emergency Relief Fund (MERF). This was a successful pilot program begun, last fall, by Olga, to assist adjunct faculty. Adjunct faculty may receive emergency assistance of up to \$500.00, and/or may receive online training reimbursements or tuition reimbursements in the amount of \$200.00. To qualify for these benefits the applicant must be a union member, a temporary adjunct faculty member (without a fulltime job); on a seniority list; and have lost all Spring '12 assignments or have had assignments reduced by 50% compared to Fall '11. Olga illustrated the application, which is online at AFT1521.org. She noted and demonstrated several other tabbed pages on the site that are useful for adjuncts.

Olga discussed the district's financial plans in light of possible further reductions in funding by the state. She included documents from the last District Budget Committee (DBC) meeting. There is a potential \$30.5 million reduction of the base funding if the governor's November Tax Initiative fails to win voters' approval. While the district has \$66 million to carry forward, it requires each college to develop a contingency plan to cut another 7% on top of the 6.2% current reductions. The district also proposes to conduct viability studies and evaluate its inter-collegiate athletic programs. Also under study is a limitation of the number of administrators per college, a study to restructure benefits programs, and possible furloughs. The district would look for alternative revenue sources in grants, college foundations and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Ken Takeda, VPA supplemented Olga's report by discussing West's budget. A best case scenario would be a budget about the same as last year's. Last year's budget was \$29.4 million. This year's may be about \$28.4 million, and next year's about \$25 million. He noted a lack of consensus among the DBC members, and stated that some colleges will pursue the 7% cuts while others may not. A questioner noted that the tax referendum would be in November, but

that classes would start in September, making budget planning and decisions urgent before September. Ken Takeda noted that the Chancellor would plan for a worst case scenario , because adjustments could not be made once the semester starts. Ken feels that we have until mid-May (about the time of the May budget revision) to figure all this out.

Adrienne Foster, Academic Senate President, briefly described the function of the Senate on campus. The Senate operates in the realm of Academic and Professional matters, as distinct from labor issues. Areas under discussion this year include a model transfer curriculum, prerequisites, the Achieving the Dream project, an achievement gap between minority vis-a-vis white students, program viability, online teaching standards, and accreditation. She introduced adjunct Senate Representative, Patricia Morris.

Bob Sprague, VPAA discussed the coming accreditation team visit on March 12th and noted that on March 13th and 14th the team will be visiting evening classes. The college's Self Study is available online and in the Library. The team's chairperson has already commented favorably on the Self Study. He spoke about stipends available for faculty who wish to develop an online site for their classes. Faculty may also apply for equipment, including i-Pads. Information from Mary Jo Apigo. Dean Judith Ann Friedman presented a document on model syllabi and Dean Aracelly Aguiar the importance of course syllabus, noting that it should be a reflection of the course of record and the catalog description.

Betsy Regalado, VPSS reviewed the functions of the Student Services division, including counseling, child care, DSPS, EOP&S, financial assistance, library services, the Transfer Center and Honors Program, and tutoring. She distributed and reviewed a 2-page document, "Student Behavior and College Discipline: Instructor Guideline" and an attached "Discipline Form". The document outlines when and how a student may be excluded from a class. Olga added that in the event of a threat against the Instructor or students, the Instructor need not fill out forms, but should go directly to the Sheriff to report the threat.