

*AFT- 1521 College Guild, West L.A. College Chapter
Minutes of Meeting of April 24, 2008*

Minutes of March 20, 2008: Read and approved.

Chapter President's Report: Olga Shewfelt attended the District Budget Committee meeting of April 16th with President Mark Rocha, V.P. John Oester, and Senate President Eloise Crippens. There was optimism about meeting the goal of 102,000 FTE for this fiscal year. The property tax backfill is still a goal. The property tax deficit is estimated by the Community College League of California to be \$84.4 million. AB 2277 is proposed to backfill this source of funds and is supported by the League, various unions, and the LACCD. One and a half percent of each college's funding is at stake.

Olga announced the appointment of Miguel Santiago to the vacated Board of Governor's position previously held by Warren Furutani. Santiago is the child of immigrant parents. He attended local public schools in the SFV and graduated magna cum laude from UCLA. He is committed to issues of social justice and political empowerment.

Olga presented the two parts of the college budget, unrestricted funds and restricted funds, which contains supplementary revenues sources such as grants. She stressed that the AFT, Senate and other college constituencies want to participate in decisions and share all information regarding the 2008-'09 College Budget Omnibus Action Proposal developed by Dr. Rocha and his administrative team.

Olga requested, again, that the college take into consideration the fact that the WLAC AFT Chapter holds its meetings on the third Thursday of the month (for full-time faculty) and the fourth Thursday of the month (for adjunct faculty). She asked that the administration not schedule meetings during these times, so that faculty can come to AFT Chapter meetings without schedule conflicts.

College President's Report: President Rocha agreed that it is important to preserve the integrity of the schedule and would refrain from scheduling conflicting meetings.

He announced what he described as "good budget news": The LACCD Board is going forward with a \$3.5 billion bond measure in November. He wants to work with the union to help pass this. These funds will help us complete campus projects. He also noted the property tax shortfall, and that unfortunately, the state has already taken this money out of our budget.

For savings in our budget, the administration is looking at all non-contractual released-time assignments. He believes that release time assignments should go to educational endeavors, not administrative tasks, but asked for policy guidance on this issue. He also noted that proposed closure of the campus on Fridays to save money is not a viable plan. He wants to continue building student-centered class schedules with division chairs working closely with the V.P of Academic Affairs and the deans in Academic Affairs. Chairs are given a budgeted amount of money to manage and plan classes to schedule.

The administration has looked at all contracts under \$65,000. Most are in Westside Extension and most are revenue-producing, and so will not be terminated. He would welcome any questions on any of the specific line items in the budget (restricted and unrestricted).

At this point, Olga reminded the meeting that by mutual consent, the college president and the College Council may opt to repeat the present round of consultations on the budget with a final action of June 5th. Bonnie Blustein drew the meeting's attention to the Legislative Analyst's budget plan, which, while suspending Prop 98, unlike the governor's plan, would result in an \$800 million shortfall community college funding, versus a \$4 billion shortfall in the governor's plan.

Faculty Questions:

Q. How many students have applied for financial aid?

A. About 20%. Clearly not enough. There should be a campus-wide drive to increase financial aid to students. Glen Schenk is trying to contact students individually. He invited the questioner to the next Enrollment Management Committee meeting.

Q. Will the 40 student cap limit per the contract on online classes be observed this summer?

A. Yes.

Q. Regarding the data for online classes, we do not get information about numbers of paid sections, units per section, or retention (vs. average class size). Can we get these and other data information? (Olga said that she will send V.P. Bob Sprague questions about data and terminology.)

A. Business Warehouse is the District's data source. We can get these and other data.

V.P. Sprague noted that growth is flat or down in semester-length classes here and at SMC and Glendale College, but up in short-term and online classes. He thinks it is worth exploring a quarter system.

President Rocha stated that online course delivery is pedagogically sound and that there should be no distinctions between online and on-campus courses. They should receive the same level of scrutiny. Bob Sprague briefly described an online basic skills course which could begin anew each week to capture or recapture enrolment.

Negotiations:

Article 28 has been finalized. The Board's team has presented Article 40. The Guild's team requests input on Article 14G, Performance Coaching. Salary re-openers are reserved, but we may not even get a COLA this year.

Tri-National Conference: Olga attended this conference and invited a delegation of Canadian Community College instructors to West on (?date). The event was attended by several West faculty and administrators, and the Senate President. Olga noted the resolution at the conference to press union locals to support a re-negotiation of NAFTA as the treaty has weakened wages, labor standards, and social spending.

M/S/P “We support the effort to re-negotiate NAFTA.” (13 yes, 2 abstentions)

Adjunct Issues: Faz Elahi reported. Storage cabinets with individual locking areas are now in place for adjunct faculty in the Adjunct Faculty Room in B-1. Some are already in use. Jack Rubensaal, Chair of WEC, will coordinate use and discontinuation of use for individual instructors with Faz.

Class size Issues: The Math Chair insists that math not be capped at 40, but at 60.

CFT Convention: Bonnie Blustein reported on the convention and distributed a packet of materials. Of special note were the possible merger of the CCA (CTA-NEA) and the CCC (CFT) and the Legislative Analyst’s report. Bonnie also stated that delegates from the larger campuses in the district usually get their expenses paid for such labor conferences but not those from smaller campuses, as they typically draw fewer votes. Jack Rubensaal remarked that every college should have at least one paid delegate.

Work Environment Committee: WEC hopes to convert the Pavilion into an Adjunct Center.