

West Los Angeles College
WLAC Chapter of AFT Faculty Guild, Local 1521
Meeting of March 20, 2008

Meeting convened at 1:15. Lunch was delayed.

Minutes of February 21, 2008: were reviewed and accepted by unanimous vote.

President's Report:

Prop "J": Olga pointed out that two Prop "J" summaries had been distributed by the administration and that the dates on one were incorrect. The summary distributed with the date 1/23/'08 was actually distributed on 3/6/'08 and items and amounts had been added to this new iteration. Olga had pointed this out to Dr. Rocha and others in the College Council meeting, and it was explained to her that the District had decided to add more value to the items in the lower part of the document. Also, she was told that the mistaken dates would be corrected.

Negotiations: So far the AFT Negotiations Team has met with management twice. Articles 6, 9, 28, and 16 have been opened by the AFT and tomorrow (March 21) the teams will look at Articles 33, 13, and 15. AFT chief negotiator is Don Sparks... District chief negotiator is Sue Carleo.

Budget update: The District Budget Committee met yesterday (3/19). The news is not good. There is now an \$84 million property shortfall for 2007-'08. This would mean a \$7.5 million hit for the LACCD, if there is no backfill relief, from Sacramento. Olga stressed that we *have* to get to our base FTES of 102, 536 FTES, district-wide, this year, in order to be held harmless for the next two years. While West is one of three campuses in the district without a deficit, the district itself is still 1,000 FTES under cap. If revenues continue to decline into the next fiscal year, then COLAs will be eliminated and categorical programs will be cut. It is therefore imperative to balance the district budget. Bonnie Blustein asked how we can rally students and faculty against anticipated fee increases. Olga stated that this kind of student-faculty rally is an important strategy and that the timing of the rally was a political choice that had not yet been decided. What has been spoken about at this time are the probabilities of presenting an emergency bill to the state legislature.

Announcements: On March 26, the Board of Trustees will appoint a new Trustee, to fill out the term of Warren Furutani. Buck Stapleton was appointed to represent the chapter on the committee dealing with labor issues related to the Sheriff's office. Olga noted that the Sheriff's Office budget is \$13 million.

Grievance Report: Bruce Anders reported that Chapter's grievance against the administration on exceeding distance learning caps in DL classes was settled. In the grievance, the Chapter had held that the administration was in violation of Article 40.C.1, by allowing DL classes to greatly exceed the 40 student cap, and then, splitting some of

the large classes at the census date, and thereby possibly circumventing the assignment of hourly classes based on seniority rights as agreed to in Article 16. Susan Carleo, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources wrote, "Dr. Rocha will direct the staff of the college to set the class limit for all DDL classes at WLAC at 40. He will continue to provide the DDL Coordinator with written permission to exceed the 40 student limit as allowed in Article 40.C.1." Bruce said that the Chapter accepts the resolution, assuming that the two stipulations quoted above refer to the first week of class. Bruce noted that the clause in 40.C.1 allowing permission to exceed the 40 cap, was not intended to allow large numbers of students to enroll after the cap was reached. The administration must put in place effective enrollment management practices, including wait lists and effective anticipation of enrollment, in order to schedule the optimum number of sections of classes with robust enrollments.

Faculty Questions: Bonnie Blustein asked how multiple semesters affect the 60% rule. Olga noted that summer and winter adjunct assignments were not part of the 60% ceiling on adjunct teaching loads. Bruce noted that the "mini-semesters" of 5 – 8 weeks, are considered to be part of the spring or fall terms if they begin within these terms. Olga noted that updated seniority lists in all disciplines are due the 6th week of the semester.

Adjunct Election: STRS CB or Social Security? The LACXCD has sent a memorandum to all adjuncts on the subject, Retirement Plan Election under Senate Bill 1466. The author and lead person on the issue is Rudy Lopez, Retirement Systems Coordinator. SB 1466 states that the election (choice) to Social Security must be made on or after March 1, 2008 and on **or before May 1, 2008**, and will become effective beginning July 1, 2008. Adjuncts must reply via a form (CB 1584) that has been mailed to them by the district's retirement unit. The Guild will address this issue at the Health Benefits & Retirement Conference, Friday, April 25, 2008 at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00p.m. Experts from both systems will be available. Additionally, the LACCD Retirement Unit and the L.A. College Guild will hold three meetings at which they will answer questions about this election and take your response form (CB 1584). The deadline for this election is **May 1, 2008**.

Good & Welfare: Bonnie reported that the Rosa Parks Essay Contest is going forward, and that the flyer is available on the college's website. She also raised the possibility that the union would organize a race and gender dialogue. Olga stated that she would consult the union leadership on this.

Work Environment Committee (WEC) Report: Jack Rubensaal, WEC Chair reported that an emergency meeting was held in February, and this meeting generated the four questions about the College facilities Master Plan and the Measure "J" and Land Development RFP process that Dr. Rocha responded to at the Chapter's February 21st meeting. New file cabinets have been placed in the Adjunct faculty Office. The WEC is developing a policy on use and assignment of space. At the next meeting, the WEC will look at a semester schedule for space in these cabinets and for keys. He stated that the college still needs a policy on office allocation, as the original proposal by the WEC was turned down by the President. Dr. Rocha now wants an office inventory to begin a new

process of developing a policy. WEC is also concerned about lack of cleanliness in classrooms and restrooms. The issue of feral cats is still on the WEC agenda. The committee expects automatic displacement of some of the population due to construction. The impact on the Child Development Center has been less than anticipated, but that area is also dealing with raccoons, who visit after sunset. Richard Block noted the need for reliable food service, especially in the evenings. The catering business may have experienced a contract problem, and evening enrollments are declining.

Distance Learning Committee: Eric Ichon reported that two new committees have been created at the District level. The first is the District-wide Instructional and Student Services Technology Committee, which is tasked with making recommendations on a new Student Information System, a Student Portal System, an ePortfolio platform, and IT Faculty Professional Development Standards. The LACCD and the CCCC Technology Unit have also been meeting in the hopes of leveraging funds from Several Title 5 grants for a standardized ePortfolio platform, advanced placement course content from UC, and a student portal system. Eric noted the overlap in the two committees and that he was a member of both. On March 12, West's Distance Ed Committee met and approved the two following noticed motions:

West intends to retain its leadership in providing the highest-quality DL courses. In Fall 2009, faculty who teach online or hybrid courses for West must demonstrate proficiency in the educationally effective use of the ETUDES-NG system by presenting their courses for approval by the DL/DE Committee, or by successfully completing, since 2006, a course in distance learning pedagogy from a list approved by the DL/DE Committee.

The DL/DE Committee recommends that the Academic Senate President consult with the college's president to request that a distance learning class which has not been staffed with a qualified instructor three weeks before the start date be cancelled.

The District Distance Education Committee met on March 18 at LATTC. Eric made the following motion:

The District Distance Education Committee affirms that the selection of the best learning management system for each individual college should be a faculty-driven decision. In addition, as currently ETUDES-NG and Moodle are the two primary learning management systems used by colleges in the LACCD, the committee recommends that the District equitable support for both systems.

Dolores Huerta Labor Institute: John Delloro, Director, reported on the Institute's developing website and a primer to be published soon. Its components include: The Economy for Working Families; The Labor Movement 101; Teaching Classes on Labor Issues; Recorded Readings and Films. Hard copies of the primer are available for teachers. John also announced that the Southern California Library will officially open on April 4. It will archive the Louisa Moreno Labor Studies collection and will work

with community college faculty to identify and access primary sources. It will also make available labor studies-related music and video materials. Finally, John reported on the UCLA Labor Center's 2008 Student Leadership Academy. "The Academy is a training and internship program that connects college students and recent graduates to career opportunities within Las Angeles labor organizations. Participants gain hands-on experience and develop leadership skills that will be valuable training for a career in civil rights work, social justice, labor, or community organizing." Internships are open to LACCD students and UCLA students and are paid, as are the jobs. Applications are due April 4, 2008. For details contact Lanita Morris at 213-480-4155 or lamorris@irle.ucla.edu

Dept. of Labor Grant: V.P. Bob Sprague announced that West has won a Dept. Of Labor grant for \$2 million 2-year grant and a \$.5 million supplement courtesy of Diane Watson to establish a Motion Picture/Television Craft and Training Proposal. West, in partnership with the Hollywood Cinema Production Resources (HCPR) and the International Association of Theater and Stage Employees (IATSE) will use these funds to develop a new program leading to a certificate in Motion Picture/Television Production. This will be a training program in ten specific technical and trade skills for the "below the line" portion of the film/TV industry. All ten crafts are unionized and their unions will contribute materials and information. Workplace Hollywood (WH), a non-profit agency which brings studios together with entry-level workers will partner with the college and with HCPR and IATSE. New faculty include Laura Peterson and Kevin Consadine of HCPR.

Announcements: (1) Paintings of Professor Lucy Blake-Elahi, entitled "The Rape of the Sumerians Looting the Iraq Museum," will be exhibited at the Art Gallery in the Fine Arts Complex. Exhibition dates are April 1, 2008 – April 12, 2008. Hours: Monday – Thursday, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Reception, Thursday, April 10, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. includes a presentation and candlelight vigil at 7:p.m. Speakers, Professors Alice Taylor and Lucy Blake-Elahi. This exhibition and event are timed to connect with the international Candlelight Vigil to raise awareness about art theft in general and the damage to the Iraq Museum collection in particular. (2) AFT elections: Ballots and envelopes will be mailed to members' homes on Monday, April 14th and must be received via U.S. mail no later than 12:00 midnight, May 5, 2008. L.A. County Federation of Labor will hold a mass rally and march, April 15 – 17, 2008, as part of the Fight for Good Jobs campaign. Rally and March begins near 5757 Wilshire Blvd. (Tues. April 15th) and ends at San Pedro dock, Berth #87 at 1st and Harbor (Thurs. April 17th.)

Meeting adjourned 3:15 p.m.