

AFT Faculty Guild: West LA College Chapter
Meeting of October 16, 2008

Chapter President, Olga Shewfelt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She announced that the college bookstore no longer catered campus events and meetings. Our meeting was catered by a local vendor.

After introductions, the minutes of September 18th were approved with minor corrections.

Budget Update: Olga announced that the District Budget Committee met 10/15 and that she attended as one of the four Guild representatives. Faculty are in line to receive a .68% COLA this year, pending Board of Trustees approval. Enrollment growth is to be funded at 1.3%. The legislature passed a \$15 million backfill of the property tax shortfall. However, we are expecting significant cuts of \$300 million statewide to community colleges; this would translate to a \$3 million cut per campus in the District. This is on top of continued declines in property tax revenues in the state. We may see adjustments to Prop 98 funding next budget cycle. The Guild hopes that the Democrats pick up some additional seats in the legislature in order to pass education-friendly budget items.

Benefits: Health Fairs will be held on each campus. West's will be held October 30th from 9:00 – 12:00. Influenza shots will be available and representatives from Delta Dental, the new insurance carrier replacing Blue Cross will be on site to answer questions. Bonnie Blustein mentioned that for the third consecutive year the Fair will be held during peak class time and that will prevent many instructors from attending. Olga said that she would seek to extend the hours of the Health Fair.

Measure J: Olga passed out materials on the ballot measure. The good news is that polling shows the level of voter support for the measure at 64% - 71%; the bad news is that only 44% of the sample claims to always vote for community college bond measures. The consulting company assisting in the campaign for the measure recommends focusing on women under 50 years of age who have voted in at least one election since 2006. Measure J talking points include: 1) Economy (Job training) ; 2) Environment/Energy (conservation accomplished and goals for LACCD campuses; and 3) Students. Olga noted that there seems to be no organized opposition.

Committees:

College Committees

College Council

- 1.Olga Shewfelt
- 2.Bruce Anders
- 3.Richard Olivas
- 4.Bonnie Blustein

Budget

1. Olga Shewfelt
- 2.

Enrollment Management

1. Curt Riesburg
2. Sholeh Khrooshi

Distance Learning

1. Nancy Sander
2. Bruce Anders

Information Technology*

1. Eric Ichon
2. Vidya Swaminathan
- 3.

** President Rocha asked the Senate to form this committee; however, Article 32 states that this is a college committee. Once the present committee produces a Master Plan component for technology, the committee will revert to its correct status as a college committee with 3 Senate and 3 AFT representatives.*

Curriculum

- 1.

Professional Development

1. Eloise Crippens

WEC/Building Management Committee

1. Jack Ruebensaal
2. Alice Taylor

Intersession Committee

1. Bruce Anders
- 2.

AFT Guild Committees (District-wide)

Retirement Benefits Committee

1. Alice Taylor
2. Paul Zolner

COPE Committee

1. Olga Shewfelt
2. Jack Ruebensaal

Adjunct Issues Committee

- 1.
- 2.

WEC (Work Environment)

- 1.
- 2.

District Academic Senate Summit Senate President Rod Patterson reported on the “sustainability summit” attended by more than 180 persons. It focused on the question: What can and should colleges do to reduce green house gasses and make our campuses greener. He stated that we need to take the leadership with our students and create awareness through curriculum, and industry partnerships.

WLAC Transportation Plan

Motion of WLAC Chapter of AFT Faculty Guild

Move to accept the WLAC Transportation Plan as Spring 2009 semester pilot plan with the following provisos:

- 1) that the final buses leaving WLAC be scheduled to leave at 10:30p.m., rather than 10:00 p.m.;
- 2) that if workers at the contracted vendor decide to organize as a union, the vendor will not impede these efforts;
- 3) that the college will investigate multiple sources for continued funding of the program;
- 4) that the college will increase student support services in proportion to the additional enrollment attributable to this transportation program;
- 5) that the college include all costs including advertising;
- 6) that in order to protect minors, busses will drop students off at times that will ensure that they do not miss their transfers to other transportation;
- 7) and that the college will explore with Jump Start, bringing students to the campus when classroom space is most available.

M/S/P Unanimous (with one abstention)

ESL Program: Nancy Sander presented a brief talk. The program begins at Level 4. She wants the program to enroll more International students. Levels 5 and above serve bilingual students. Some of these “Generation 1.5” students may be quite proficient in spoken English but deficient in reading and writing English. While enrollment is dipping in ESL as a whole, the retention is 80%. New, non-credit courses are planned in the

Extension program under Barry Sloan with some voc. Ed. components will serve students below Level 4.

Attendance: Nancy Sander, Doris Martin, Norma Barragan, Bonnie Blustein, Alice Taylor, Mary Jo Apigo, Vidya, Swaminathan, Evelyn Liskin, James Ulrich, May Du Bois, David Newell, Mary Jane McMaster, Jack Ruebensaal, Sholeh Khoroshe, Judy Chow, Eric Ichon, Betty Jacobs, Faz Elahi, Rodney Patterson, Fran Leonard, Stefan Stich, Bruce Anders, Olga Shewfelt.

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