

*West Los Angeles College Chapter
AFT Local 1521
Minutes of May 21, 2009*

Buck Stapleton; Richard Olivas; Adrienne Foster; Norma Barragan; Alice Taylor; Fran Leonard; Betty Jacobs; Nancy Sander; Fran Israel; Sandi Pinio; Rod Patterson; Eric Ichon; May Du Bois; Bonnie Blustein; Mary Jane McMaster; Richard Block; Vanita Nicholas; Jack Ruebensall.

Guests: Bill Bolton; Bob Sprague; John Oester; Brian J; Ahmed Moshin; Luis Moreno; Darius Leevy.

Minutes of April 23rd were read and approved.

Budget: Olga reported that the Chancellor spoke at the District Budget Committee Wednesday (5/20). We could experience a cut of \$80 million, twice what was expected. We must be organized and distribute cuts strategically. The AFT E-Board met Tuesday (5/19). The Chancellor is in communication with other districts and with the various unions who represent district employees. The defeat of the five budget initiatives and the stark May Revision of the budget have combined to move us into “a time like no other”.

John Oester reported at length. He distributed an “Operating Statement” of 05/21/2009, which duplicated page 9 in Olga’s packet. Current year FTES are 8007, but we’re carrying a deficit of \$442,595. He produced two different scenarios for the 2009-10 fiscal year, one with cuts of \$1,145,137 and a second with cuts of \$2,290,274. The worst case scenario would leave a deficit of \$4,352,336. This deficit could be reduced by eliminating summer and winter intersessions and reducing the number of new faculty hires from eight to four.

Olga distributed the latest information on the budget issues from the Community College League of California. She continued: The Community College League projects a \$939 million deficit in unrestricted and categorical funds (e.g., Basic Skills DSPS, EOPS, Transfer and Articulation, etc.) The community colleges feel that they have been cut disproportionately, 20% vs. 11% for the K-12 system, which like the community colleges, is funded through Prop 98. The Board of Governors of the LACCD is expected to consider cancellation of summer and winter intersessions. At West, this would save \$1,828,142 (remaining summer session) and \$607,674 (winter session). Rod Patterson speculated that summer sessions will be closed throughout the southern California region, in a coordinated move.

Bonne Blustein expressed concern about the classified unit if the campus closes in the summer. In response to a query, John Oester noted that many administrators received March 15th letters, preliminary to possible 15-day furloughs. Bruce Anders asked about the district’s reserve funds and whether they may be applied to individual campus’ deficits. John Oester replied that the \$40 million reserve fund will be reduced to \$20 million and some of it may be applied to reduce campus deficits, but that fifty percent of these funds are “owned” by Pierce and East, which generated the revenue. Bonnie

Blustein asked whether Turner Co. could pick up part of salary of our employees who work with them on the building projects. John Oester responded that as a general rule of thumb, bond funds cannot be used to fund district employees. Bonnie asked, why we are still being assessed by the district for previous borrowings/debts. The VPA said that he assumes the amount will go down by \$500 million. Olga stated that perhaps we need to be held harmless on our funding base, which will now go down. The VPA said that the Chancellor feels this will be so. The FON could also be deferred under these unusual circumstances.

Norma Barragan asked us to recall that we've been pushed to go over the cap funding, and this was a "roll of the dice" by the college leadership, and we've now got to live with the result. Even by eliminating summer and winter sessions, we will still be over cap. Richard Block asked whether the cancellation of summer and winter would impact the fall schedule. Bob Sprague, VPAA, said that the short answer is, "no". However, fall schedule has more classes than we can fund, which was a conscious decision on the part of the college. The college will now have to reduce these offerings by 22%.

Olga asked, What is the status of the revenue enhancement projects? Bob answered that the Chancellor has approved these positions and that there has been consultation with the Teamsters and the AFT. One of the six new dean positions has been put on hold. The others are posted in notices of employment and are moving toward hire. One hiring committee will consider between 20 and 40 applicants for the five positions, but, the president can make direct hires. Olga asked for any volunteers for this hiring committee. Promoting present employees to dean status in any of the revenue enhancement projects could free up that person's salary to return to the regular operating budget.

May Election Results: Nancy Pearlman retained her seat on the BOG, but Angela Reddock was defeated. The latter result was a shock to all of us. Ms. Reddock was a fine Trustee and now we will have to deal with a new personality, Tina Park.

Internship Program: The AFT Internship Program brought together LACCD fifty students to engage in electoral work, educate students about issues, and lobby state legislators on community college needs. Our student interns made 13,500 phone calls to mobilize union voters. Zack Knorr, the supervisor of the interns, reported that the program will continue this summer with additional funds. Student, Luis Moreno described his experience in the program as trying to raise the consciousness of his fellow students. He said that the program's effectiveness depended upon its approach of working from the bottom up. He added that he regrets having to leave West L.A. College, but he cannot get the classes he needs here, to finish his major and make a successful transfer to UC. He was joined by student interns Darius Leevey, Brian J. and Ahmed Moshin.

Proposed Move to CalPERS Health Benefits Group: Olga praised the work of Susan Aminoff and Carolyn Widener on the issue of moving healthcare coverage to CalPERS, and she thanked Alice Taylor for her excellent letter, an e-mail response to a faculty member who wrote against the proposed move. Alice, who represents the campus on the union's Health and Retirement Committee, said that we have to make this move, due to

the large and growing percentage of retired faculty in the district. Olga announced that adjunct faculty now will have the opportunity to join the group and enroll in the Blue Shield policy, under the district program for partially paid medical benefits. The ballot will go out to union faculty within a week.

Announcements: Olga announced the results of four chair elections: Sciences Division: Abe Bhata; Language Arts Division: Betty Jacobs; Humanities/Fine Arts Division, Michael Arata; and Behavioral/Social Sciences Division, Buck Stapleton. Two MOUS are now signed-ff: (1) Nursing Vice Chair/Assistant Director Reassigned Time (.2 to .5 D basis); and (2) A clarification of the meaning of adjunct participation in the SLO Outcomes Assessment Cycle. The final version does contain the reference to ancillary pay, per Article 43B2.

WLAC Grant Management Committee: Olga pressed for the establishment of a committee to look at the technical issues of the revenue enhancement grants. The committee would give the faculty and other constituencies recommending and oversight duties. It will therefore be a powerful committee in the shared governance terrain. The committee will report to the College Council.

Motion: Move to approve the establishment of the committee with the revised membership as follows:

- AFT Faculty Guild (3 faculty appointed by the AFT Chapter President)
- Faculty Senate (3 faculty appointed by the Senate President)
- Classified Staff (1 member appointed by the AFT Classified Chapter President)
- SEIU (1 member appointed by the SEIU Chapter President)
- Senior Executive Staff (3 college VPs)
- Dean of Grants Development (or comparable administrative designee of the VPAA)
- ASO (President or appointee)
- College President

The committee to be co-chaired, but the college president cannot be a co-chair.

M/S/P Unanimous.

WEC Report: Jack Ruebensal reported. The WEC is exploring the acquisition of a Simplex Scheduling program, a device to apportion and track room assignments and meetings. The program has the capacity to send messages of meetings to designated in-putters, and is intended to head off room conflicts. Jack stated that at a cost of \$3,000, the program will provide tremendous benefits.

Planning Committee: Vanita Nicholas reported that the new Planning Committee would help assess college effectiveness and review other current plans generated by other bodies. Bruce Anders asked whether the Planning Committee would actually do any planning, and if not whether the name of the committee could be changed to Institutional

Effectiveness Committee or something else, closer to its function. Fran Leonard said that institutional effectiveness is planning.