

Minutes AFT Faculty Guild Chapter Meeting, September 19th, 2013

Minutes taken by Jack Ruebensaal and written in collaboration with Olga Shewfelt

Faculty members present:

Janise White, Alice Taylor, Norma Barragan, Clare Norris, Carlos Sermeno, Jack Moy, Kevin Considine, Jack Ruebensaal, Mary Hardy, Nancy Sander, Anna Chinng, Laura Paterson, Fran Leonard, Edmond Guzman, Rudy Triviso, Yervamt Boghos, Matt Roberson, Arnita Porter, Ken Taira, Kathy Kelley, Bonnie Blustein, Faz Elahi, Vidya Swaminathan, Carmen Dones, May Du Bois, Bruce Anders, Kenyata Bakeer, Jan Pfeiffer, Tim Russell, Lue (Heidi) Yilan, Mark Rose, and Olga Shewfelt.

Other guests: AFT Faculty Student Coordinator & Interns Fall/13.
President Nabil, Peter Mitsakos (architect) and Steve Shaar, West CPM.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:05pm
No minutes were approved from the previous meeting

1. Introductions

Among the introductions was the new team of AFT faculty interns most of which were ASO members. Darius, Levy is a former AFT Student Intern and the new West coordinator of the interns spoke briefly on AB 955 and asked the members present to contact the Governor to urge him to veto the measure. He also spoke about the Rally held on September 24th organized by Refund Los Angeles as well as organizing some campus activities around Refund Los Angeles and AB 955.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for faculty members who might be interested in having a student intern come into their class/es to speak on the Refund initiative and movement as well as AB 955.

The Chapter Chair then asked for permission to reorder the agenda by moving item 2 in the agenda (chapter report) after the action item in # 3. has been presented, discussed and voted on.

3. ACTION ITEM: The proposal for a new “West Los Angeles College Construction Master Plan.” This includes 13 construction and renovation projects funded by Bond money and 6 unfunded construction ideas to be considered when funding becomes available.

A presentation of this proposal for the new College Construction Master Plan, was led by Peter Mitsakos, the lead architect consultant hired by West for this purpose.

Mr. Mitsakos outlined the history of the two year “hole” which was to be the TLC and other projects and the District’s moratorium on bond construction projects. The result was the development of two Options 1 and 2 which were debated in all the bodies of the shared governance process at West. Option 2 was ultimately adopted by the Facilities Committee, The Academic Senate, the AFT Faculty Guild, t and the College Council, in Spring/13. Option 2 was the culmination of discussions and documents ranging from input of Division Chairs, Program Reviews, the Facilities Master Plan, other constituents and the college President and the resulting needs assessment prepared by the college, Peter Mitsakos and the CPM at the request of Build L.A. and the District.

Ultimately it came down to what could be done with the rest of the money West was allotted, what options could best meet the college needs, and what could be funded. In terms of the proposal for bond funded projects, the central question is : How much at this date is left from the Bond funding ? Steve Shaar, West’s Construction Program Manager (CPM) provided this answer: Bond Construction dollars to date is 48 million to be applied on the 13 projects in the bond funded proposal,. AND a shortfall of about 10 million due to contingencies.

In addition, this proposal includes some planning ideas that currently are unfunded. However, the college could adopt them as a planning tool to be evaluated and considered and reviewed when the college new funding becomes available.

This proposal includes a new configuration the TLC should take in particular where to build the building on campus. After considering many options the decision was made to building it around the Campus Core from Parking Lot 5 up through the center of campus emptying out onto the mall between the SSB and the GCB.

The new TLC would house in particular though not exclusively the Business and Computer Science Departments, the AFT and Senate offices, West Extension. Sheriffs.

Other projects encumbered in this new campus Construction Master Plan would be Watson 2 which would be built near the Aviation building though on the upper grade currently Parking Lot 2.

A new dance studio and a small dance studio located near the South PE structure.

A new warehouse building and modification to the HLRC. The Math/Science building Level 1 would be redesigned to expand the Allied Health

department/labs and their administrative offices. Reprographics and mailroom would be relocated to SC.

Building B1 would be demolished and B4/5 would be made ADA accessible. CE would eventually house the ASO and Student health offices. The current Fine Arts dance arena would be converted into a multi purpose space.

The unfunded projects would be cost out over a phased time line: 2016, 2026 and 2036 which would at this point limit the EIR (Environmental Impact Report). From 2026 and further out projects such as activities in student services/ annex needed, more faculty offices and computer labs...possibly a TLC3, and changes in LRC.

The Budget aspect of the proposal contained in the new Construction Master Plan was lead by Steve Sharr. The estimated cost of construction for the bond funded construction plan is \$48 million plus 10% contingencies escalation of costs over time risk management contingency unknown. The budget for construction and the above listed items did result in a 10 million override. The plan is to "value design it" - in an attempt to reduce the estimate of contingencies. (for a complete examination of this proposal see the "West Los Angeles College Construction Master Plan" posted by the Facilities Committee and send to all the faculty by the Guild Chapter President.)

Discussion:

Most of the discussion centered on the Math Division and their either lack of useable classroom space or classrooms shortfall.

President Nabil made it clear that there would be no new classrooms in the construction other than specialization labs and the like.

The Math department was emphatic in that any discussion regarding the placement or replacement of Math classrooms should be made in discussion with the Math Division and Academic Affairs since it is they who assign the classrooms. The president said that "We" need to address the broader issues of scheduling.

Bonnie Blustein asked the question; "When will the current schedule of Math classes be scheduled? And expressed a concern in the scheduling and placement of steak holders in the new Bond construction proposal..

Olga Shewfelt stated that the issue of re-scheduling classes should be done in a collaborative and broad manner with all the Divisions and programs, for all the classes offered at West. This issue, is at the heart of the work that we do at the college to serve all students. This is not an issue that concerns only the Math Division. President Nabil agreed.

Once the president left the meeting, the members present and in support of the Math Division's concerns and the concerns of many present regarding the occupants of the new projects, the AFT Guild passed the following resolution:

A motion was presented to approve the new proposal for “West Los Angeles Construction Master Plan,” with the caveat that the programming of each one of the 13 projects proposed in this Plan, will be checked and approved by the stakeholders concerned/impacted by these construction and/ or renovation projects..

Said motion passed with 22 ayes and 2 abstentions.

2) Chapter President’s Report

- a) **2013-14 Budget allocation** for West is \$32 million. The new District policy regarding debt payment by colleges who owe money to the District has been adopted. Thanks to President’s Nabil action at the DBC our campus will not have to pay all its debt this year, but in a three-year period. Olga Shewfelt wanted to pursue the idea of obtaining a substantial percentage of our debt forgiven by the District (as some colleges may have up to 50% if they meet several requirements.) However, that idea did not find support at the District Budget Committee meeting on 9/18/13.

- b) **Enrollment Management Committee.** The Chapter President announced that there was an open spot on the Enrollment Management Committee to represent the AFT Faculty Guild. She is looking for a faculty member who is really interested in working on this area as a team player with our chapter. Interested faculty should contact the chapter president if there is more than one person interested in the position, the Chapter President will make a decision after interviewing the interested faculty members. On this topic of student enrollment, President Nabil reported earlier that enrollment at West showed a 2% growth with an actual enrollment up 7%. There are more students taking more classes and that the average enrollment per class was up 5%. That 12% of the classes were added late and this resulted in a 7% enrollment growth with these new added classes. West was in fact using cash reserves to fund the new class for Fall ’13. Winter session is going to be reintroduced this coming Winter ’14 with about 65 sections.

- c) **Negotiations:** The survey to gather feedback from faculty around the District is going to come out in October. The next meeting we will be talking about the details of this survey. The Chapter urges all faculty to fill out the survey and express their thoughts about the issues that they want to see negotiated in the new contract. The AFT Faculty Guild Team of Negotiations has been formed. See attached list of faculty members. More information to come at all the chapter meetings. Also, please read the new “Loud and Clear” newsletter about the upcoming negotiations.

- d) **3% Salary increase:** Retroactive to July 1st/13 should be reflected in the September 30 paycheck. See attached document.

e) **Politics:**

- AB955 is at the Governor's desk for signature. Call the Governor's office to express your opinion and ask him not to sign this divisive and unfair bill!
- Andra Hoffman, a faculty member from Glendale Community College, endorsed by our Guild and many other Democratic leaders and organizations, lost the election for AD 45.
- New Student Interns at West. We have a very strong team of 5 students! (see item 1) Introductions above.

4. Health Benefits Information : Letters with all relevant information for the new enrollment period from September 16 to October 11 were sent to all faculty members' home addresses. The Chapter President also sent a detailed email to the new full time faculty and adjunct faculty urging them to check their health plans and enroll.

5. SLO's Faculty Feedback

Olga Shewfelt also asked for any feedback regarding the SLOs. It was proposed though not as a resolution that a survey be conducted on how the other 8 campuses are completing their SLOs. Norma Barrigan, Carmen Downes, and Mary Hardy volunteered to work on this survey and report back at a later date.

6. Intersession assignments and priority lists

Olga Shewfelt also raised the issue of the Winter term Priority List as written in Article 15 of the AFT contract. That there were in effect three types of lists for Intersessions: Full time faculty Winter, Full time faculty Summer, and a combined list for both Winter and Summer for adjunct instructors. That adjuncts were to choose one priority list if they happened to appear on two or more lists. That an intersession assignment was between 5/6 hours as defined by the AFT contract. AND that in case of a tie for assignment eligibility the two (or more) faculty members were to be present for the breaking of the tie following the timelines outlined in Article 15.

7 & 8. New Faculty Chapter representative appointments:

Jack Ruebensaal and Matt Robertson were introduced to the faculty respectively as the new Grievance Rep and Chair of the Work Environment Committee.