



El Camino College Compton Center

EMERGENCY MEETING

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

Friday, August 26, 2011 VOC TECH ATRIUM

12:30-1:30 PM

Minutes

SENATORS:

Michael Odanaka
Estina Pratt
Annaruth Garcia
Saul Panski
Jerome Evans
Tom Norton
Chris Halligan
Pamella West
Mandeda Uch
Leonard Clark
Darwin Smith
Leticia Vasquez

I. Call to Order - Saul Panski

Panski called the meeting to order and indicated that it was designed to discuss the crisis in the partnership and what action, if any, the faculty should take. A draft letter to the Chancellor had been provided to the faculty for purpose of discussion.

Panski asked the Senators, after adoption of the agenda, if they wished to open the meeting to the entire faculty and allow them to vote on whatever course of action was to be decided upon. The members of the Senate agreed unanimously.

Discussion:

Pratt: We need to do something as faculty. If we don't, we are just setting ourselves up to be walked over.

D. Roach: Why do we have to send a letter now? Why can't we wait and see what happens? Why don't we listen to Dr. Fallo and not get involved?

Norton: We must send a message, any message.

Panski indicated that the faculty seemed to be divided as to several courses of action:

1. Don't send any letter to the Chancellor
2. Send the draft letter with amendments

3. Send only an invitation to the Chancellor to discuss the situation with faculty.

Discussion:

Subramaniam: - What are the issues?

Panski - There are three issues:

1. Who is controlling the budget? If ECC does not approve the budget it is grounds for termination of the partnership. Concerns related to expenses for consultants and compliance with the 50% Law.
2. We are dealing with a very strained relationship between the leadership of the two districts.
3. There are ongoing discussions and negotiations for a new Memorandum of Understanding between the two districts.

Panski pointed out that under AB318, now codified in the Education Code, should a partnering district terminate the partnership, it must help locate another partner before leaving. While the 2008 MOU did not impose this condition on ECC, it was state law. Fortunately, Dr. Fallo, in the letter he provided to Compton faculty on 8/25/11, indicated that ECC had no intention of leaving—if the partnership faltered—until another partner was found and the partnership was implemented.

He added that it was his understanding that the Commission wanted the current partnership to continue and added that should the partnership dissolve all the work we had done on such things as SLOs and program reviews would be null. Moreover, if enrollment were to decline, he was concerned that layoffs might result.

Discussion:

D.Roach: Why are you (Saul) trying to scare everyone?

Panski: This isn't about scaring anyone. It's about supporting the partnership as it stands and pointing out all of the salient facts.

Maruyama: Senate and faculty must take a position. We cannot be ostriches with our heads in the sand like we've been in the past. We must state a position. If we don't, we are just asking to be steamrolled.

Lyles: If we get involved, we might get hurt. We are pawns in a game. This is way above our heads. This is politics. We should send a letter to the Chancellor's office simply inviting him to the school. I want to see him and have him tell us his intention. "Don't play with me and my legacy!"

Phillips: Conspiracy theories around here have always turned out to be fact. We need to be very careful, but we definitely need to say something. It's all in the way that we word it. I came back to my community (Compton) to serve and preserve it. We need to save this place!

Keig: Saul, you aren't scaring me. No one is giving us any chance to look at the facts and make a decision. We've got to send something. I'm pessimistic about getting any information from the Chancellor, but we at least need to demonstrate our concern as this school's faculty.

Van Niel: We need to send a revised letter. It should be an invite, but it should also address the issues.

Odanaka: We shouldn't take a position or side in the letter. It must be neutral.

Faculty Vote on Letter by Show of Hands

- 1. Send a letter that addresses issues and concerns as drafted *Defeated***
- 2. Send a letter inviting the Chancellor to meet with the faculty and include some references to the issues under discussion *Defeated***
- 3. Send only an invitation asking the Chancellor to come speak to the faculty as a matter of urgency before September 13th. *Approved by Acclamation***

Panski indicated that he would draft such a letter of invitation to the Chancellor and transmit it by both email and snail mail as soon as possible .

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.