



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Districtwide Executive Council

Monday, January 12, 2004

Heritage of the Americas Museum

MEETING NOTES

Present: O. Suarez, J. Althaus, M. Amov, M. Herman, T. Martinez, C. McMahan, G. Perri, D. Quittner, P. Setzer, B. Smith

Absent: P. Anderson, J. Austin, M. Meador, R. Rose, B. Tiffany

Others Present: B. Starks (representing J. Austin)

Recorder: M. Watkins

Review of January 20, 2004, Governing Board Special and Regular Meeting Agendas

Suarez announced that there would be no January 20 pre-Board meeting presentation/tour. The Board will instead conduct a retreat for the purpose of developing its goals and objectives for 2004. He presented the draft agenda for the January 20, 2004, special Board meeting.

Suarez presented the agenda for the January 20, 2004, regular Governing Board meeting.

- *Item 306—Nonresident Tuition Fee for 2004-2005:* Suarez reported there will be no increase in nonresident tuition for 2004-2005. Setzer questioned the fairness of not increasing nonresident tuition when local students' tuition is slated to increase from \$18 to \$26 per unit. Suarez reviewed the process for determining the fee and explained that, since the number of foreign students has decreased significantly since 9/11, it was determined that the fee should be reasonable. He pointed out there is a significant gap between \$146 for nonresident tuition and \$26 for local students.
- *Item 307—Advance to Financial Aid Funds:* Suarez explained that an emergency transfer of approximately \$80,000 was made to the Financial Aid Fund until financial aid funds are received to ensure that students receive their financial aid checks in a timely manner.
- *Item 503—Reduction of Service and Layoff of Classified Employees:* McMahan reported that two Grossmont College positions are affected by the elimination of work in the Office Professional Training program. She added that there are alternative positions for the individuals involved. She will be working with Grossmont College and CSEA in placing them.

Budget Update

Suarez reported that community colleges are in a relatively good position with regard to the Governor's proposed budget. He cautioned that information should be kept in the proper perspective between now and June 30, when the budget will be finalized. He reviewed the Governor's recommendations, which include equalization, growth, and noncredit funding, no COLA, and no mid-year budget reductions. Recommendations also include consolidation of categorical programs, which will enable districts to utilize funds as the local districts and boards deem necessary. An increase in fees from \$18 to \$26 per unit is also being proposed. Suarez will review the recommendations with districtwide shared governance groups and develop a plan regarding what the District can and cannot support.

McMahan expressed anticipation about the outcome of the January 15 ACCCA budget workshop in Sacramento, including backfill for the PERS increase and whether the tuition increases will be retained by the Districts. Suarez reported it is incumbent upon the system to work with the Governor and try to get the support of legislators.

Smith reported the Joint Academic Senate meeting on January 22 will review the Governor's budget and the Scott Lay equalization proposal.

- *Equalization:* Suarez provided details of the equalization plan being supported by the Governor, which will provide \$4,200 per FTES. The plan will cost \$240 million, at \$80 million this year and for the next two years. Setzer reported that he and Beth Smith were invited by the Statewide Academic Senate to participate in a conference call on the subject of equalization (the Scott Lay proposal). He commented that the senate leaders are committed to the principle of program based funding. Smith added that, at the December

equalization hearing, concern was expressed about maintaining quality using a per-FTES funding model. Setzer reported that a resolution in support of the Scott Lay proposal will be presented at the Spring Academic Senate Plenary Session, which, he indicated will have a good chance of support.

- **Proposed Fee Increases:** Suarez indicated he is generally in support of the Governor's proposal to increase fees from \$18 to \$26 per unit, which is still a good deal when compared with tuition fees at the national level, some of which are in excess of \$50 per unit. He did not attribute the recent drop in enrollment to the increase in fees from \$11 to \$18, but rather to the fact that operational funds were reduced, and districts could not maintain services and therefore had to limit enrollment. He added that this is a case where standards have been directly affected. He noted that there are resources available at the state and federal levels for students who want to attend school, and pointed out that the proposed increase in fees will enable more students to be eligible for Pell grants, some of which don't kick in until tuition is \$25-\$26 per unit. The group concurred that the proposed differential fee of \$50 for students with bachelors degrees should not be supported.

Suarez reported that these issues will be discussed districtwide and a position will be formulated, and with the Board, which will provide the general direction regarding how the District will move ahead.

Proposition R Update

There will be two Proposition R items presented to the Board for information on the January 20 Board docket: Item 652—Proposition R Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report, and Item 653—Gafcon Quarterly Program Management Report.

The Way Forward

Suarez reported he will discuss with Board members how they might integrate *The Way Forward* into their goals and objectives for 2004.

DEC Meeting Notes

The December 2004 Districtwide Executive Council meeting notes are posted on the District website.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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