

Citrus College Adjunct Faculty Federation, AFT-6352
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes of May 18th, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Anne Battle called the meeting to order at 4:08

ATTENDEES

Present at this meeting were: Anne Battle, Cecil Brower, Adrian Soldatenko, Monica Lee, Daniel Holm, Elizabeth Serrao, Bill Zeman, Peter Nguyen

AGENDA APPROVAL

The revised agenda was approved by general consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Adrian moved and Monica seconded approval of the April 15, 2011 Executive Board Meeting minutes with minor changes. The movement was approved by general consent.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1) Under discussion is the need for a mechanism that enables officers to send bulk e-mails. Various methods were debated. Anne is going to investigate the possibilities contained within *Membership Suite*. 2) Officer Installation: Anne as Acting President acknowledged the transition of new officers effective at the next meeting.

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Daniel Holm reported that there are huge reductions in the workforce in Cosmetology. A meeting was held in which a discussion of the cuts was held. Dean Lancaster attended and addressed those assembled. There was a great deal of gloom attending the meeting. Daniel was later told he'd still have a class in the fall for four shifts a week, 4 1/2 hrs. per night. Other adjuncts lost their positions, but the classes still exist and therefore must be taught. (How this saves the college money is not understood.) This is a special contract approved for over the 67% maximum load. Every freshman class that begins in Cosmetology is essentially a contract with these students to provide all necessary classes for a two year period, which assures the program's continuation for at least that long.

Elizabeth Serrao representing Language Arts, reported that Reading Arts are being combined with other English classes for the sake of higher completion rates. Elizabeth expressed her doubts that this would be a successful strategy given the levels of proficiency of many students in beginning level classes. Peter agreed, pointing to the inconsistency of providing a "fast-track" for "remedial" students, who by definition need more time with basic content rather than less. Elizabeth claimed that her experience with English 19 and English 99, indicated big differences in the abilities of these respective students. Her fear was that the "19" students would be dropping out due to this disparity. A discussion of funding priorities and the process for implementing changes in course offerings took place. Also, a discussion of the change toward priorities for freshman vs. continuing students also took place. Continuing students are not pleased with this administrative change, according to the students Elizabeth has spoken with. The benefit to the college is believed to be in its increased enrollment and in the positive P.R. generated with high schools.

The benefits to continuing students in need of classes for degree and certificate completion was discussed. There is an artificial limit to enrollment. Bill encouraged Elizabeth's participation on the Academic Senate, as an advocate for student interests. Elizabeth also commented that after listening to the benefits presentation at the Spring Welcome Back Meeting, she changed her insurance policy to take advantage of AFT programs, and has saved over \$1000.

Cecil Brower

Cecil is on the list to work in the fall. Cecil's understanding of the list is that inclusion of one's name on it, is a legal requirement for hiring consideration for future classes. Cecil explained the various status divisions on the list. Inclusion on the list is no guarantee of assignments, but it is illegal (due to insurance reasons), to be hired without being on the list.

2) At the Board of Trustees Meeting held May 3: There was a heated discussion of wording of the previous meeting's minutes that lasted over an hour, and the discovery of the additional funds available at the state level was a topic of discussion as well. At the May 17 meeting, there was positive news - a \$6.6 billion increase in revenue. The college deficit is being reduced to \$10 million. There is still a \$488 million budget cut. No changes will take place. That represents a 4.9% reduction in funds. There was a conference call with Chancellor Jack Scott and Community College deans, that indicated some encouragement for improvements. He doesn't anticipate passage of the tax extensions proposed by Governor Brown. Raising student fees to \$125 / unit is being proposed. They don't expect the budget to be settled until August. Monica read a letter from the Mount Sac President, addressing the budgetary issues of community colleges as affected by the May Revision of state revenue reports. Its tone was positive. Classes are being added back into the Mt. Sac schedule.

Adrian Soldatenko

The Physical Sciences meeting was cancelled.

SECRETARY AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Mark Wessel was not present.

REPRESENTATION OFFICER'S REPORT

1) Bill reported that Irene Malmgren listed class reductions of 641 sections in the fall. These decisions were made before the State's May Revision was released, and so it seems likely that class reductions may be less severe than this initial estimate. Based on the Academic Senate meeting, Bill concluded that all reductions in the workforce for the sake of budgetary reductions, were being born by adjuncts. Full-timers are being limited to one overload class in the summer. Monica requested information about percentages of cuts within departments. Issues of fairness are at stake in this request. 2) **The Financial Resources Committee** will be meeting the first Wednesday of every month in AB 206. This is an opportunity for adjuncts to show up and make the case for funding programs within their departments. 3) Bill has a copy of the new forms that will be used for full-time teacher evaluations. 4) There is a committee that is currently evaluating the possibility of using departmental chair persons. The "chair" is a faculty member, which would make them the appropriate evaluator of peers. Citrus' non-use of department chairs is an aberration in this general college-wide convention.

CFT FIELD REP REPORT

Peter Nguyen reported that: 1) He was not happy that all the departments at Citrus began making their cuts before the May Revise was released because at the beginning of this budget cycle the funding level was set at \$49 billion, statewide under Prop 98. If the tax extensions pass that funding will be at \$52.4 billion. Even if the tax extensions don't make the ballot, or if they're not passed, we're at \$50.8 billion, still better off than we were in January. Our concern should be that District planning was operating under worse case scenario, figures that were way off. Our message should be that funding is better than they were in January. In light of this, justification for continuing with planned cuts seems to be a pretext for "Cleaning House". A revised course of action should be implemented in the interest of college integrity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no treasurer's report

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anne indicated the need to begin training her replacement.

Adrian, Elizabeth, Daniel and Cecil were excused for Closed Session which began at 5:00.

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 15 at 2:30.

July 15,16 and 17 in Crestline at Bill's cabin. Bill will be sending directions to attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00.

