



**Council of Representatives
Approved Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2009, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Room # 5402 Cuesta College

Attendance according to the sign-in page (p = present, a = absent):

Academic Skills/DSPS

(None)

Biological Sciences

Michael Holmes (a)
Ron Ruppert (p)

Business Education

Marilyne Cleeves (p)
Jack Sullivan (a)

Counseling

Dana Gough (p)
Julie Smith (p)

**Engineering and
Technology**

David Fernandez (a)

English

June Beck (a)
Matt Fleming (a)

**English as a Second
Language**

Madeline Medeiros (a)

Fine Arts

Michael Burns (a)
Douglas Highland (a)

Health Center

(None)

Human Development

Margie Perez-Sesser
(p)

**Languages and
Communication**

John Arno (a)
Betsy Dunn (a)
Tony Rector-
Cavagnaro (p)

Library Services

Kevin Bontenbal (p)

Mathematics

Denise Chellsen (p)
Julie Hoffman (p)
Pat Hughes (p)
Barbara McGee (p)

Nursing / Allied Health

Mary Ann Ambrose (p)
Cathy Cyr (p)

Performing Arts

bree valle (a)

Physical Education

Mike Napoli (a)

Physical Sciences

Debra Stakes (a)

Social Sciences

Peter Dill (p)
Kathryn Logan (p)
Mark Weber (p)

**Student Life and
Leadership &
Health Center**

(None)

**Workforce
Development**

(None)

CCFT Executive Board

Allison Merzon –
President (p)
Peet Cocke – Vice-
President (p)
Mark Tomes – Sec.-
Treas. (p)
Victor Krulikowski –
Co-Grievance Officer
(p)
Peggy Wright –
Co-Grievance Officer
(p)
Andrea Devitt –
COPE Chair (a)

Visitors

None.



Merzon opened the meeting at 3:12 p.m. after a quorum was reached. The meeting was chaired by Bontenbal.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made (Cyr/Rector-Cavagnaro) to approve the draft minutes from the March 12, 2009 Council of Representatives meeting. It was approved unanimously.

2. **Negotiations Update**

Merzon reported that there are many articles on the table and three are almost ready for completion (“TA” – Tentative Agreement). Article IV Compensation will be opened by the district at the next meeting.

The CCFT Negotiations Team met with the CCCUE team for about two hours to discuss comparable districts, then the two teams met with the district. The district list contained only two of the same districts as the CCFT/CCCUE list. The three teams will meet again before the semester ends.

About thirty people attended the health insurance forum, which included representatives from SISC and CalPERS. The Council discussed health insurance options, including the benefits and costs of CalPERS, which is more expensive but offers health insurance for retirees, lower rate increases, non-composite rates, “richer” plans, optional participation by employees, and HMO’s and PPO’s. Merzon will send information from the forum to Council members. Gough pointed out that the Cuesta College Board of Trustees in the past had resisted increasing the fringe amount because some faculty members were using it for tax-sheltered annuities.

Merzon will be sending a survey to members asking for their priorities and ideas on health insurance. An open Benefits Committee meeting will be held Monday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss health insurance options.

A discussion occurred regarding FTES: if Cuesta College reaches 10,000 FTES, it automatically receives one million dollars more in its base funding. Many administrators believe that we could not reach that many FTES this year or next, so courses were cut to save money. Merzon has asked for a faculty representative on Enrollment Management so that we have a voice in these discussions.

3. **Grievance Update**

Merzon reported that various confidential issues are being settled as we speak.

4 – 8. **Secretary-Treasurer's Report and Nominations**

Tomes reported that the CCFT treasury has \$2355.55 in it, and the COPE fund has \$1858.19 in it (with 31 faculty members now donating a total \$211 monthly to the COPE fund).

The new Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the membership on April 3, 2009. The vote was 98 – 9 for the Constitution and 93 – 8 for the Bylaws. The approved Constitution and Bylaws go into effect immediately. No dues change was included in the new Constitution; instead the Executive Board decided that it will finalize a proposal and present it to the membership on Fall 2009 Opening Day. A full discussion of any dues change will occur during the Fall 2009 semester.

The new Constitution necessitates the Council elect an Elections Committee. Elections Committee members cannot serve on the Council or the Executive Board, and the committee elects its own chairperson. After discussion, the Council decided to seek nominations and elect the committee members at its next meeting. The Elections Committee will then conduct the elections this semester for the COPE, Part-Time Faculty Committee, and Communications Committee chairpersons.

The new Constitution also allows one Council representative from the North County Campus. It was decided that Ruppert and Bontenbal will contact the chair of the NCC Coordinators and other (suggested) faculty members to discuss a process and assistance in that election.

Bontenbal agreed to continue serving as chair of the Council; the Council consented. Ruppert said he could not be a Council member next year, so the Council consented to seek nominations and elect at its May 14, 2009 meeting a new co-chair for a two-year term. The Council also will seek nominations and elect at its May 14, 2009 meeting a temporary faculty member who is on the Council for a two-year term as liaison to the Executive Board.

Tomes reminded the Council that the union faculty members in each division should conduct elections for their Council representatives before the end of this semester.

9. **Committee Reports**

COPE – It was noted that Devitt had sent her report via email to the Council members.

Part-Time Faculty Committee – Cleaves reported that about thirty faculty members responded to her invitation to meet at her house for a get-together to discuss part-time faculty issues. Merzon was invited, as well, and will be the only permanent faculty member at the meeting (as a listener and resource, only).

Benefits Committee – (see above).

Calendar – Pat Len and Merzon are on this committee. Joy Chambers, Director of Admissions and Records, has requested a meeting to discuss calendar issues. Some Council members asked that we look at moving spring break to a more “academically-sound” time and not connected it to a religious holiday. It was noted that research has not linked negative student performance with the timing of spring break. It was noted that most local K-12 school districts are coordinating their calendars with each other.

Communications – Merzon was contacted by a Cuestonian reporter asking if there was anything that CCFT wanted in the newspaper. Cleeves said that the uncut version of the article on part-time faculty will be on the CCFT website soon.

Peace and Justice – Tomes noted that the art contest will be ending after spring break. Individual faculty members have been contributing to the prize money fund. CCFT has contributed \$50.

Evaluations – This committee is putting together a best practices packet for all those involved in evaluations, including the Institutional Tenure Review Committee. A workshop for managers who complete evaluations might be conducted.

Distance Education – This committee has been reviewing evaluation methods for distance education instructors, distance education course design support, and distance education curriculum issues at other colleges. Cuesta is somewhat behind the curve, compared to Allan Hancock College and other colleges. Cuesta needs to look at its policies, some of which are negotiable (such as virtual office hours) and some of which tie in with accreditation.

10. **Division Concerns/Issues**

Merzon reported that she met for breakfast with Pat Mullen, Cuesta College Board of Trustees President; they had a congenial, general discussion. It was a good first meeting. In other news, the unit plan will be part of the Program Plan and Review process, which should alleviate some work. A new form is required to be completed to request information from the Institutional Research department; some faculty members have complained of its cumbersomeness; let Merzon know if you have any comments about it. The joint Shared Governance/Planning and Budget committee prioritized budget cuts; we are waiting for Dr. Pelham to decide on the next round of budget cuts.

CFT voted to not support Proposition 10, which, despite its title, actually takes funds away from many children’s programs. If it passes, it will have a negative effect on Cuesta College students. Some Council members asked to see information on the upcoming proposition elections on the CCFT website.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Tomes, Secretary-Treasurer.