



Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, February 5, 2009, 2:30 – 4:30
Room 3219, Cuesta College

Approved Minutes

Present: Kevin Bontenbal, Peet Cocke, Andrea Devitt, Victor Krulikowski, Steve Leone, Allison Merzon, Ron Ruppert, Mark Tomes, Peggy Wright

Absent: None.

Guests: June Beck, Communications Chair; Marilynne Cleaves, CCFT Webmaster, and at this meeting joined the Executive Board as Part-Time Faculty Committee Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Allison Merzon.

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made (Cocke/Merzon) to approve the draft February 22, 2009 EB meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Devitt gave Tomes \$20.00 in cash from t-shirt sales.

2. Joint Senate-CCFT Issues

Merzon reiterated the Executive Board's desire to limit discussion to joint CCFT-Senate issues; the Board does not need a full report of the Senate's activities since the Senate should be reporting regularly to the faculty, anyway, and many EB members are on the Senate Council. It was agreed that the CCFT report at the Senate Council meeting also will focus on joint CCFT-Senate issues. This standing agenda item will be a time to ask pertinent questions, as well.

Leone reported that the Senate and CCFT leadership are jointly writing a letter that outlines the Cuesta College budget reduction process, including a reduction of the 2009 summer session. The process needs to be slowed down from the process currently being used by the district administration so that comprehensive input can be gathered from all of the campus constituent groups. In addition, letters to the faculty by one Vice President has inaccuracies and mixed messages that need clarifying.

The district President, Vice Presidents, and deans' evaluations will be coming out soon. Leone was assured by Dave Pelham that all faculty comments and scores will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

Pat Mullen, Board of Trustees President, will be meeting Merzon and Leone for conversation, the first of which is what are, hopefully, regular meetings.

3. Treasurer's Report

Tomes reported that the current CCFT treasury balance was \$9317.48; that figure will decrease by \$2000 to \$5000 when he pays the next legal bill. Our current legal bill balance is \$0 (zero dollars), having paid off all current cases. It was noted by an EB member that a new file (legal case) is being opened soon. Also, next month we should be receiving the arbitrator's

decision regarding a past case and our attorney's analysis of the decision, both of which will increase the legal bills substantially.

There was consensus to follow the legal obligation to mail out nomination notices to the CCFT members' home addresses, despite not having all of the election dates determined.

After discussion, the Executive Board decided unanimously (motion by Merzon/Devitt) to change the number of delegates that CCFT will sponsor to the CFT Convention from ten to five.

CCFT lost about \$1500 in dues and fees in the January 31, 2009 payroll deductions compared to the average monthly dues received from the Fall 2008 semester because of course reductions for the Spring 2009 semester; this loss will recur on a monthly basis for the rest of the semester. The affiliate dues will be reduced, as well, but only by about \$100/month, resulting in a monthly loss of income of about \$1400, or \$7000 for the semester. Merzon reported that about 100 course sections have been cut from the Spring 2009 semester schedule.

4. Committee/Task Force Reports

COPE – Devitt earlier had submitted her report via email. She is forming a subcommittee to look at candidates for the Board of Trustees election in 2010. She encouraged the EB members to sell the CCFT T-shirts. An order form will be included in the next newsletter. March 31 is Cesar Chavez Day, and all CCFT members are encouraged to wear their CCFT T-shirts on that day. The next Tri-Counties Central Labor Council meeting will be held at the IBEW hall in San Luis Obispo next Tuesday, February 10. Tomes will attend, Merzon hopes to, and Devitt cannot.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee – Tomes led a discussion about changes to the draft Constitution, including those suggested by Teresa Idris, of AFT Legal. It was decided to not require membership for a certain time period before running for CCFT office, as that provision could serve to protect incumbents. The changes will be reflected in the next update.

Part-Time Faculty Committee – No report, as at the time of this agenda item there was not a chair for this committee.

Benefits Committee – Merzon appointed Jane Morgan to this committee. They will be meeting on February 20 to continue work on next year's insurance issues.

Communications Committee – Beck asked that articles for the next newsletter be submitted to her by February 10. She sent the faculty a sample letter to send to our legislators regarding the state budget. Budget information has been posted on the CCFT web site. It was suggested to also post a glossary of acronyms and budget terms compiled by the Cuesta College Senate. Beck hopes to form a Legislative Committee to keep track of and alert members to pertinent state and federal legislation.

Calendar Committee – The next meeting of this committee will occur on February 6. There are no changes to the academic calendar except that Veterans Day will be celebrated on a Friday instead of a Monday in an upcoming academic year.

Peace and Justice Committee – Merzon reported on the committee's email to members encouraging them to wear a "white knot" to support efforts to reinstate same-sex marriage in California.

Other – Merzon reported that 44 faculty members attended the CCFT-sponsored evaluations best practices workshop on Opening Day. Although a Vice President had good intentions in sending out a letter regarding evaluation timelines, it contained inaccurate information to the faculty. Merzon noted to the VP that this could set up situations where faculty members could grieve the evaluation process. Merzon and Debra Stakes, workshop facilitators, will be distributing packets to the division chairs containing comprehensive information of evaluation best practices.

5. Part-Time Faculty Committee Chairperson Nomination

Both Beck and Cleeves expressed interest in being the Part-Time Faculty Committee Chairperson. After discussion, Beck withdrew her nomination and encouraged the EB to select Cleeves for the position. Cleeves accepted the nomination, and Merzon officially appointed her to the position, which began immediately.

6. New Task Force – Sunshine

Some faculty members have suggested that CCFT sponsor an end- (or beginning-) of-year social event. Many ideas were discussed, including having a BBQ and changing the name of the committee, but no decisions were made. Cocke will be the liaison from the committee to the EB.

7. Personnel Issues

A variety of issues were discussed, including those regarding placement on salary schedules, faculty workloads, student complaints, contract enforcement, and tenure. (Merzon left for an entire discussion of one case to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.) Merzon will ask Shannon Wilson to file a preliminary legal defense grant application for a particular case.

8. Negotiations

Merzon reported on the status of negotiations, including regarding the district's copying of faculty leave forms for a Freedom of Information request by a student.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Tomes, Secretary-Treasurer.