



Executive Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 19, 2009, 2:30 – 4:30  
Room 4043, Cuesta College

### **Approved Minutes**

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

*Absent:* None.

*Guests:* None.

The meeting was called to order at 2:42 p.m. by Allison Merzon.

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made (Devitt/Cocke) to approve the draft February 5, 2009 EB meeting minutes with no changes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Joint Senate-CCFT Issues**

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

Leone stated that the Senate Council is a support group for the CCFT leadership in the budget reduction strategy discussions. Also, he thanked Merzon for her support in the accreditation discussions.

The Cuesta College Woodworking program has been suspended and will re-open as a non-credit program in the Fall 2009 semester. There have been long-standing complaints of safety issues by the instructor and his students. There is no established college policy or procedure for suspending academic programs, as there is with discontinuance of programs. Such a policy needs to be developed soon, particularly with many budget reduction actions looming. Also, the Senate was not notified of the program's suspension, an error made by the administration.

Some faculty members in the Human Development division would like to have their students take part in a national, on-line, anonymous human sexuality survey. The request was denied by Cathleen Greiner, VP of Student Learning, ostensibly because Cuesta College does not have an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Leone pointed out that IRB's are usually only needed when humans are used in actual experiments, not surveys, and the denial appears to be related more to the content of the survey than the IRB issue. The denial is probably an academic freedom and curriculum issue.

#### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Tomes reported that there is currently \$9003.00 in the CCFT treasury. The monthly balances range from \$5000 to \$15,000. It has been impossible to build up any cash reserves due to increased affiliate fees, increased costs due to inflation, reduced course sections (and subsequent reduced dues and fees paid to CCFT), and on-going legal fees. He noted that monthly balances last fiscal year also were relatively low and that the previous EB got

through it by not paying all of CCFT's legal bills; this fiscal year began with \$70,000 owed to our attorney and a phone call from him asking where a promised payment was.

The mid-year budget was discussed line by line. Current projections show CCFT ending the fiscal year with about \$21,000 in the red. Tomes made the point that although income might increase if there is a dues change this spring, it would not bring in enough extra funds to cover the large budget deficit, and it probably means that CCFT will not be able to pay some of its bills this summer.

The EB decided to suspend payments for extra stipends and student help for the remainder of the fiscal year. Merzon refused any payment for her cell phone use for CCFT calls, which have been considerable. It is possible to suspend payments of affiliate fees over the summer, although this could jeopardize receipt of AFT and CFT legal defense grants.

Other budget decisions made by the EB (specifically because they directly support students) included approving the Peace and Justice Committee's request for \$50 for student art contest prizes and continuing to sponsor the Katy Tomes Memorial Scholarship, the Lenore Erickson Scholarship, and the Robert Hartwig Memorial Scholarship (\$500 each). Also, there will still be funding for five delegates to the CFT Convention, and they will be encouraged to carpool and otherwise reduce their expenditures for the convention.

An idea to transfer CCFT funds to the COPE account on a monthly basis (based on a set amount per CCFT member) was tabled. [The budget was approved unanimously; see vote in section below.]

#### **4. Webmaster Charges**

As part of its budget discussion, the EB discussed charges submitted and payments proposed by Marilyne Cleaves, CCFT webmaster. Her invoice for starting the new website was about \$1900.00. Cleaves noted that this was less than the total amount paid to the previous webmaster for starting up the CCFT website then. Also, Cleaves proposed that CCFT pay her a standard rate of \$55.00 per hour for future work completed on the website.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Krulikowski, seconded by Cocke, and approved unanimously to approve the amended budget, including the webmaster invoice and rate of pay.

A motion was made (Krukowski/Devitt) to post the recently-completed GAAP audit on the CCFT website. It was approved unanimously.

#### **5. CFT Convention Delegates**

A letter will be mailed to the home addresses of every CCFT member announcing the nomination and election processes for being a CFT Convention delegate and for the upcoming CCFT spring elections (Constitution and Bylaws re-writes, officer elections, and election of committee chairpersons, if the draft Constitution is passed by the members). Hotel reservations with the convention discount rates are due on February 27, 2009 and the delegate list is due to CFT by March 6, 2009, although Tomes noted that the latter date was to get on official convention committee lists; delegate lists and alternate lists actually can be turned in at the convention.

#### **6. Committee/Task Force Reports**

COPE – Devitt reported that the SLO city firefighters are asking for their union comrades to support them in their fight to keep binding arbitration with the city (which was approved by voters a few years ago). The SLO City Council will be discussing at their March 3, 2009 meeting whether or not to put a measure on the city ballot to eliminate their binding arbitration mandate. Some EB members committed to being at the council meeting to support the firefighters. A motion was made (Tomes/Merzon) for Merzon to write a letter of support from the EB for the union's binding arbitration; it passed unanimously.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee – Tomes brought up the problem of CCFT assessing dues and fees only 10 months of the year (August – May). Some faculty members

are on a 12-month pay period and do not pay dues or fair share fees for two months of their base salary. This inequity needs to be addressed.

Tomes will write up a statement regarding possible changes to the CCFT dues structure. A dues change structure will be discussed at the next Council of Representatives meeting (with Council members facilitating a discussion with their division constituents) and at the next EB meeting. A vote on any dues changes will take place at the same time the Constitution and Bylaws re-writes are voted on.

Communications Committee – June Beck has resigned (via email before this EB meeting) as chair of this committee, citing other commitments that are interfering with her ability to complete tasks for this position. She offered her on-going support for the union and thanks to the EB for empowering her.

The CCFT newsletter is at the printer's and will be available soon.

## **7. Personnel Issues**

A variety of confidential issues were discussed, including a tenure issue, two particular on-going cases (including the arbitrator's decision on one of those), workload exchange, and a grievance filed with the district by some faculty members who have elected to not enlist the assistance of CCFT.

## **8. Negotiations**

The EB discussed a variety of issues, including those involving health insurance payments and overloads for full-time faculty members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Tomes, Secretary-Treasurer.