



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

Approved Minutes

Present: Kevin Bontenbal, Marilynne Cleaves, Peet Cocke, Andrea Devitt, Victor Krulikowski, Allison Merzon, Ron Ruppert, Mark Tomes

Absent: Steve Leone, Peggy Wright

Guests: None.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Allison Merzon.

1. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Tomes reported that there is about \$12,000 in the CCFT Treasury.

The EB discussed placing a Constitution amendment for a dues change (resulting in an increase in CCFT income) on a ballot. Tomes outlined the need for an increase, particularly the fact that Cuesta College faculty members pay some of the lowest dues of any faculty in California community colleges and that CCFT's income has not been able to keep up with inflation. He noted that the CCFT budget difficulties go back to at least one year; the EB then used legal defense grants to pay affiliate fees and did not pay legal bills when the organization was short on cash. This left CCFT this year with no reserves and \$70,000 in debt to our attorneys.

It was decided to use the "double-envelope" method to vote for the upcoming vote(s), including the Constitution and Bylaws re-writes, and to ask Public Safety if they would store the ballot box in their offices, as they did last year. The North County Campus will have a ballot box, as well.

The EB voted unanimously (motion by Cocke/Krulikowski) to approve a renewal of a Catastrophic Leave Bank request for a faculty member.

2. Committee/Task Force Reports

COPE – Devitt reported that Ken Burt, CFT Legislative Director, is seeking support for a voter registration drive via the Democratic Central Committee. Support from CCFT will not cost us anything. A motion was made (Tomes/Devitt) to support Burt and the DCC in their voter registration drive.

Tomes reported that he attended the March 3, 2009 San Luis Obispo City Council meeting to support the SLO City Firefighters and Police Officers unions in their battle to keep binding arbitration. There was a very large turnout supporting the unions, including State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell (speaking as a private citizen), Pedro Nava, state Assemblyman from Santa Barbara/Ventura, and many unionists from the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council. In addition, letters of support from Congresswoman Lois Capps and state Senator Abel Maldonado were read aloud at the meeting. The SLO City Council eventually took no action on the matter, but left it open to return to it at a later date. They also gave the unions notice that they wanted their assistance in finding solutions to the city's budget problems. Both union Presidents stated that they always had and always would work closely with the city to solve budget problems.

In addition to talking to Nava regarding the unions' issues, Tomes also discussed keeping school categorical funding out of the district's general fund. Nava agreed with that position, and he said that some categorical programs were moved into general funds in the most recent state budget as a compromise to Republican legislators who were "holding the budget hostage." Nava also expressed a strong desire to remove the 2/3 majority needed to pass the state budget.

Merzon stated that Pat Mullen will be meeting with her for breakfast Saturday, February 28, 2009, as he had to be out of town for their original meeting time.

Merzon also brought up an issue regarding the hiring of a Newport Beach lawyer for a campus sexual harassment case; the Board claimed that there were no local attorneys available for the case and the Director of Human Resources does not have time to take on the case. Devitt had heard of the issue and found that there are at least 2 local firms that could take the case. The Newport Beach firm is charging the district \$175/hour for the travel time between Newport Beach and San Luis Obispo. There were questions about whether the district's legal budget has come up with the Planning and Budget Committee.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee – (see above discussion on possible due changes).

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made (Devitt/Cocke) to approve the draft February 19, 2009 EB meeting minutes with no changes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Personnel Issues

Various confidential issues were discussed. It was reported that CCFT had intervened for a faculty member in a tenure decision that involved allegations of an unfair process and that the faculty member was recently granted tenure as a result of the new process.

5. Negotiations

Merzon reported that the district has not been assessing overload assignments correctly for STRS (retirement) and was going to change the retirement service allocations for faculty, retroactively for a number of years, when Merzon stopped the district from doing so. This issue will have to be negotiated.

There were questions regarding whether faculty reassigned time is being reported as full service credit by the district for STRS purposes. Tomes will explore the issue.

6. CFT Convention Delegates

Nominations have closed for the election of delegates to the CFT Convention. There were only three CCFT members interested in or able to attend the convention. The EB had approved reimbursement for expenses for up to five delegates, so all three candidates could be automatically approved without an election. After discussion, a motion was made (Cocke/Tomes) to declare the three candidates, Jeff Stein, Allison Merzon, and Kevin Bontenbal, as delegates to the 2009 CFT Convention. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Joint Senate-CCFT Issues

It was reported that a Cuesta College Vice President had announced at an Accreditation Steering Committee meeting that she was going to ask the ACCJC if they thought that the district needs to bargain over having student learning outcomes in the faculty evaluation process. Many members of the EB questioned why she would ask when the entire evaluation process is negotiated.

The Social Sciences division was told that the faculty members in that division would be evaluating the faculty members in the Student Life and Leadership division. That decision was questioned over two weeks ago by Merzon and the Social Sciences division, but the district has implemented it anyway.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Tomes, Secretary-Treasurer.