Fates of Continuing Education (continued)

and support have been extensive and positive. The final report will be given to Dr. Friedlander in June and it is hoped that he will be able to see the new center implemented over the next 2 years.

Though it is expected that the majority of courses now offered for adult learners will be converted to fee-based, some may still receive apportionment funding. There is no mandate from the Chancellor’s Office at this time, nor will it be able in the near term to direct community colleges to convert or cut all non-enhanced classes. Many colleges still offer a wide selection of state-supported courses to older adults. For instance, San Diego and North Orange continue to have robust programs for older adults. The CE Task force is fighting to preserve as many state-supported classes as possible so that once the financial crisis abates, a base of classes will remain in place upon which to rebuild this extraordinary community institution, arguably the best adult education program in the state.

The Parent-Child Workshops too are in jeopardy and it is hoped that the workshops will remain in place upon which to rebuild this extraordinary community institution, arguably the best adult education program in the state.

Did You Know?

ATTENTION ALL ADJUNCT FACULTY

Did you know that...

…that the minimum load threshold for the college sponsored health insurance plan was lowered from 50% to 40% of a full time load, and ...

…that you may enroll a spouse, domestic partner and/or dependents into this health plan as well? (Note: District contribution is limited to the adjunct instructor’s premium).

Any questions? Please feel free to contact me.

Cornelia Alsheimer
Adjunct Faculty Representative

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Instructors’ Association Newsletter

Newsletter by and for the faculty of the Santa Barbara Community College District

President’s Message

Moving On

The economic tsunami, triggered by the Great Recession, is about to hit our shores. If Governor Brown’s tax initiative fails to pass in November, SBCC could face a funding reduction in excess of $8,000,000. The reserves SBCC have so carefully amassed are already reversing their upward climb. Given these harsh economic realities, one wonders why anyone would want to be president of a California Community College. Nevertheless SBCC received nearly 40 applications in the first wave of its presidential search. Sadly, our very able acting president withdrew his application. Dr. Friedlander decided that he could best serve the college by continuing as EVP to the new president. Fortunately the pool of candidates was strong.

As I write these words, the Presidential Search Committee has forwarded its selected candidates to the Board of Trustees. The trustees will make the final decision. Choosing the Superintendent / President is the single most important responsibility of the Board and it is doubly significant given our recent history. SBCC has undergone a minor revolution in the last few years. For the first time in our history, the community exercised the authority given it through the electoral process to radically alter the philosophical and political balance of the Board. In 2010 the community elected a new majority to the Board, one they believed would more accurately represent their interests.

The Board of Trustees is the voice of the community. Trustees are charged with setting policy and monitoring college activities on the public’s behalf. This, I believe, our trustees have done admirably. The role of the Superintendent / President is markedly different. As the educational administrator, the president is responsible for the daily decisions and for the concrete actions that embody the vision of the community. It is important that the role of the Board and the role of the Superintendent / President are clearly defined and that they complement one another. I am sure that this will be part of the interview process between our Board and their presidential candidates. Mutual respect and support are critical.

It is also critical to campus morale that the Board of Trustees acts as a cohesive and mutually respectful body. In this, our trustees have faced challenges. For those of us who regularly attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees, the friction is apparent. To the interested community, on campus and off, the televised meetings of the Board of Trustees are the public face of the college governance process. No one questions the dedication and hard work contributed by each of our trustees— their devotion to the college is apparent. It is their ability to successfully collaborate that has generated concern. Certainly there are remnants of conflict elsewhere on the campus but with our trustees setting the example, it will be easier to move beyond partisanship.

As a final question in the interview process, the Presidential Search Committee asked each applicant if they had any questions for the committee. One of the candidates replied “Just one. I am aware of your recent political divisions. Are you ready to move on?”

(continued on back page)
Selection of the Superintendent/President (Part II)

In my last missive I said that I would keep you abreast of the developments leading up to the selection of a new Superintendent/President. I am pleased to report that the process is well under way, and you were superbly represented by the faculty members who were on the committee. The Board of Trustees did their part too by providing guidance on what kinds of qualities they would like to see in a new Superintendent/President and also what the relative weightings were for those qualities.

The Superintendent/President search committee consisted of 15 members with three coming from the community (Ron Gallo, Billie Maunz, and Marianne Russell Kugler) and the rest coming from management (Marilynn Spaventa, Jason Walker, and Carola Smith), classified staff (Liz Auchincloss, Cindy Salazar-Rangel, and Carlos Macias), students (JJ Englel), the Foundation (Kandy Luria-Budgor), and faculty (Lynne Stark, Bonnie Chavez, Sonia Zuniga-Lomeli, and I). Ron Gallo and I were selected by the Board of Trustees to be co-chairs for the committee.

Towards the end of February, the co-chairs met with the search firm Stanton-Chase for an orientation, and that was followed up with a search group orientation. The third and fourth weeks of March involved the search committee meeting to generate interview questions for the candidates and also to winnow down the candidates to those who were to be interviewed. This was quite a process since there were many candidates to look at and each person was examined and debated with great care. At the end of the process, the interview pool was selected. The interviews took place at the end of March and ran through the first part of Spring Break.

During the interview process, the entire committee was engaged, and everyone had a lot to contribute. I learned a lot from my fellow committee members, and I really looked forward to our conversations about the various candidates. We have since completed the process and forwarded the finalists to the Board of Trustees.

I have to say that it was a real pleasure working with the selection committee. Everyone without exception was engaged in the process, did their homework, and participated fully. Because of the excellent collaboration among the committee members, I have very high confidence in the finalists we have forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

Dean Nevins, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Science, Academic Senate President

The Fates of Continuing Education: An Update

The BOG Student Success Task Force produced a number of recommendations that will not only affect the credit side of the college but will also have a significant and adverse impact on Continuing Education. Current proposed legislation (Lownenthal) intends to implement these recommendations. The Student Success Task Force seeks to give more centralized authority to the Chancellor’s office and the Board of Governors over everything from curriculum to professional development. Their intent is to “assure” that common standards, consistency, accountability, and efficiencies are uniformly imposed across all California community colleges.

If the legislation supports the Chancellor’s Office and the BOG recommendations, one of the results at Continuing Education will be the defunding of all those courses and programs, now called “enrichment,” designed primarily for older adults. It would leave the “enhancements” untethered, still funded through apportionment. They include GED, ESL, vocational and basic skills classes.

From District Policy on Speech and Academic Freedom

The IA is encouraging the district to revise and update policies related to academic freedom, free speech, and electronic communications. Our current administration recognizes the need to revise current policies related to free speech and has submitted to the Academic Senate a draft of a newly proposed BP 3900 and AP 3900 on “Speech–Time, Place, and Manner.” The IA’s legal counsel has prepared its own draft on “Speech and Academic Freedom,” which will be forwarded on to the Senate for its consideration. The administration, understandably, takes a more conservative view towards academic free speech on campus. The IA takes a more liberal view towards the rights that faculty, staff, and students should share on campus. It will be important that all members of the SBCC Academic Community participate in the principles of shared governance as we develop these new policies.

Such policies have a great impact on our working environment. A few pertinent issues that these new policies will address are (a) our ability to function as faculty in communicating our ideas to each other and to students; (b) restrictions to our clothing and other forms of passive expression that support political causes or ideals; (c) the extent to which we may participate in local elections that impact SBCC; (d) the extent to which faculty and staff may participate in political functions or demonstrations on campus; and; (e) our ability to share ideas and discuss openly with each other on campus political issues of importance to our college community.

Campus campuses have a history of being at the forefront of free speech and civil liberty issues and movements. What type of school do we want to be? As important issues that define our time and culture surface, shall we promote civil activism and cultural engagement, or will we play it safe and take the back seat? The IA encourages everyone to get involved. Talk to your senate representatives regarding your views associated with these issues. If this matters to you, it will be important that your voice be heard.

Erin O’Connor
IA Board Member / Grievance Officer

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