



WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees
9900 Cody Street
Coalinga, CA 93210
(559) 934-2100

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

April 26, 2011



CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION

Vice President Henry called the study session of the Board of Trustees to order at 10:03 a.m. and led the Board members and audience in the flag salute.

Board members present:

Mark McKean, President
Bill Henry, Vice President
Nina Oxborrow, Clerk
Jeff Levinson
Edna Ivans
Jack Minnite
Steve Cantu

Board members absent:

Ryan Cardoza, Student Trustee

Administrators present:

Frank Gornick, Chancellor
Ken Stoppenbrink, Vice Chancellor of Business Services
Willard Lewallen, President, West Hills College Coalinga
Don Warkentin, President, West Hills College Lemoore
Frances Squire, Executive Director of West Hills Community College Foundation
Susan Whitener, Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Planning
Pedro Avila, Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness and Enrollment Management
Carole Goldsmith, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Workforce Development
Sylvia Dorsey-Robinson, Vice President of Educational Services, West Hills College Lemoore
Dave Bolt, Vice President of Educational Services, West Hills College Lemoore
Marlon Hall, Vice President of Student Services, West Hills College Coalinga
Jill Stearns, Vice President of Educational Services, West Hills College Coalinga
Jana Cox, Director of Financial Aid
Marcel Hetu, Director of North District Center, Firebaugh, West Hills College Coalinga
Richard Larson, Director of Farm of the Future, West Hills College Coalinga

Introduction of Guests

There were no guests introduced at this time.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

STUDY SESSION

Dr. Frank Gornick welcomed the group and explained that there are three study session items. The first item is concerning program, curriculum, and course development. He explained that the Board of Trustees has given him the authority for administrative procedure. He introduced Dr. Carole Goldsmith.

Program, Curriculum, and Course Development – Dr. Goldsmith provided a background of program, curriculum, and course development and explained Education Code section 70902(b) and Title 5, Section 51022. President McKean stated that he wants the Board to hear about program changes and discontinuances at the beginning of the process. Ms. Anita Bart, Academic Senate President, commented on SB 1440 and stated that we may be discontinuing some areas but it is because we are streamlining. Discussion took place for purposes of clarification.

Dr. Gornick commented on the proposed Rule of 7 and stated that we are all in favor of having prerequisites. He stated that he thinks we would want to take a look at where the majority of our students go after West Hills College in order to determine prerequisites.

The College Presidents commented on some examples of curriculum changes that have occurred at their colleges and the need for consistency.

Ms. Bart stated that the faculty do not think the additional rule for course objectives is necessary because of SB 1440. The rule restricts us even more. Another problem is with curriculum review every five years. She stated that things won't get pushed through as fast as they should be. SB 1440 will also address prerequisites. There are reasons for prerequisites. If the students don't have them, they will not be successful in the class. The faculty are also talking about articulation between colleges, stating that this has never been an issue at the curriculum level, only at the administrative level. The faculty have been suggesting that articulation agreements exist between the two colleges. They have been requesting this because they have known that it is going to come up.

Dr. Goldsmith provided information on Board Policy 4020 and the rationale for modification. She explained that we are still operating and following the parameters as set forth in Education Code and our district policies. Having different prerequisites could lead to issues with transferability to four year universities and portability within our district. The proposed Rule of 7 ensures that our students are receiving an equitable education on both campuses.

Mr. Pedro Avila commented that 25% of our enrollment comes from online courses. The average in the state is 9%. This means that the colleges are sharing 25% of the enrollment. He stated that we need to keep our prerequisites consistent as we are unique in that sense.

Dr. Gornick commented on the Closing the Gap project and stated that there has been a lot of input and discussion.

Trustee Henry questioned why the faculty are against the course objectives as one of the rules. Ms. Bart responded that the information they were originally given is not what Dr. Goldsmith has explained today.

Trustee Minnite commented on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that are already being addressed so that we can show we are ahead of the game.

Retirement Health Benefits – As an introduction to this topic, Dr. Gornick stated that both faculty and classified groups have contract language regarding retirement health benefits. The administrative/management/confidential group does not. Dr. Gornick stated that he has been looking at this issue and is working on a proposal that would benefit all employees. It is something that he would like for the Board to consider so that a plan is uniformly administered. He stated that he is not talking about full medical benefits, but a benefit that would occur after certain years of service and a certain age level. It is a benefit that people accrue. It is an optional plan and is not required. Mr. Ken Stoppenbrink discussed the plan features which include recruitment/retention, providing for supplemental coverage, covering the gap in MediCare, employee contributions, lifetime benefit, and section 125 pre-tax deductions. Mr. Stoppenbrink explained that vesting in the plan would occur immediately.

Dr. Gornick questioned if the Board would be willing to move forward with consideration of the plan. Discussion took place regarding GASB funding. There was consensus from the Board to move forward with developing a plan. Trustee Cantu stated that he wants to see other options. President McKean questioned what happens if the retiree is allowed to purchase coverage at retirement and what it means to the district's unfunded liability. Mr. Stoppenbrink stated that we do not know what the premiums will be at retirement. Dr. Gornick stated that he will develop a retiree health benefits plan to present to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Accreditation Update – Dr. Lewallen reported that the draft accreditation report has been received for West Hills College Coalinga and he is working with the team chair to correct errors of fact. He stated that he has some concerns and has sent back responses but has not heard back from the chair yet. He stated that, in general, the college felt very good about the visit itself; although the report surprised them a little. The information that was shared with the college didn't quite match with what was written in the report. He stated that he is addressing this through the appropriate channels.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges will meet in June. The college will receive the official action letter and report after that time.

Mr. Don Warkentin reported that West Hills College Lemoore has also received their report and have corrected some errors of fact. He stated that they had a great visit. The received some good recommendations about things they will be working on.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, the study session was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Nina Oxborrow
Clerk of the Board of Trustees

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