

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2013

(Approved by Executive Council on January 29, 2014)

Executive Councilors present (noted by *):

*Julie Thompson, <i>presiding</i>	*Dianne Davis	*Sean Martin	*Nikona Mulkovich
*Filomena Avila	*Terry Ehret	*Jacqueline McGhee	*Matt Murray
Paulette Bell	*Karen Frindell Teuscher	*Bud Metzger	*MJ Papa
*Shawn Brumbaugh	*Deirdre Frontczak	*Terry Mulcaire	*Margaret Pennington
*Paula Burks	Andre LaRue	Dwayne Mulder	

Officers/Negotiators/Appointed Positions present: Warren Ruud

Staff members present: Candy Shell, Carol Valencia

Faculty members present: Karen Stanley

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. in Doyle Library, Room #4245, on the Santa Rosa campus.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. **Negotiations Report**. This report and discussion were conducted in closed session.
2. **Conciliation/Grievance Report**. This report and discussion were conducted in closed session.

Closed Session adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 3:31 p.m.

MEMBER CONCERNS WITHIN AFA'S PURVIEW

Karen Frindell Teuscher brought up a concern on behalf of the Chemistry department regarding the Facilities department. Their building is experiencing heating problems, and they have been calling Facilities every day to try to get it fixed. As a result, they have been reprimanded for too many calls. They have also had instances of debris falling on students—sometimes causing injury. Karen recently wrote letters to Facilities and Dr. Chong about the situation. She is bringing this up because the climate of disrespect and inefficiency in the Facilities Department is negatively affecting working conditions.

MINUTES

There being no corrections or additions, by unanimous voice vote, the Council approved a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2013 Executive Council meeting as submitted (15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

(Approved minutes are posted at <http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/minutes.shtml>.)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **AFA Budget Planning**

Julie explained that AFA is looking for ways to decrease expenses in the short term because over the past few years, expenses have outpaced revenues. Proposed options for cuts presented to the Council were:

- Decreasing the number of people sent to California Community College Independents (CCCI) conferences. (Options: Send two per semester; send two in the fall and four or six in the spring because of the lower travel cost in the spring).
- Decreasing AFA reassigned time for the Vice Presidents to 10 percent; increase time if and when projects are assigned.
- Eliminate Professional Development Activity workshop door prizes.
- Renegotiate our Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) contract membership fees to exclude counting adjuncts with 20 percent load or less unless a faculty member opts in.
- Decrease or eliminate AFA *Dialogue* author stipends.

Julie asked for Councilor input:

- Treasurer Paula Burks explained that she believes a “healthy balance” for our accounts would be to have one year’s expenses in reserve—currently \$360,000.
- Julie added that AFA revenue is projected to increase \$5,000 from last year.
- There was a discussion regarding decreasing the Vice Presidents’ reassigned time. The current reassigned time is 25 percent each. If they went back to 10 percent, the Petaluma VP would still need an extra 5 percent to compensate for travel time. One idea was to eliminate the additional 15 percent VP-special-project reassigned time in the fall, but include it in the spring, if a project is needed. Another idea was to decrease the reassigned time and use timesheets to track and compensate the actual hours for assigned special project work completed.
- There was a discussion regarding the importance of CCCCI conference attendance while also recognizing that the total amount spent could be reduced. One idea was to send two people in the fall (with airfare included as an expense) and six people in the spring (without airfare). That way there would still be eight attendees for the year at less cost.
- There was a discussion about the \$200 AFA *Dialogue* stipend being too high with a suggestion to decrease the amount to \$50.

Julie explained that the next step is to review the Council feedback above and determine what will be needed to put the decreases in place. After this research is completed, the proposed changes will be brought back to the Council in January or February for discussion and voting.

2. **Appointment to Academic Senate Textbook Committee**

Julie asked for a volunteer from among the contract faculty Councilors for this new committee seat. There were no volunteers, so volunteers will be solicited via email from all contract faculty.

OTHER REPORTS

1. **President’s Report.** Julie reported briefly on the following item:

- Councilors who are up for re-election this year need to be thinking about their plans for next year because, when we return from break, AFA elections will be upon us.

PRESENTATION

Bond Measure Proposal (*Dr. Frank Chong, Superintendent/President*)

Dr. Chong is ending his second year at the college, and, when he first arrived on campus, the beauty of the grounds and campus impressed him. However, when you enter the older buildings, the aging and deferred maintenance are evident. Most of the buildings on the main campus are beyond the 45-50 years they were expected to last. He explained that we have a

“tale of two cities” on campus—beautiful, new buildings like Doyle Library, the Bertolini Student Services Center, and the Parking Pavilion—and the rest of the original, aging buildings that are in very sad shape. He has been asking himself, “At what point do you decide to do something about all the deferred maintenance?”

2018 will be the College’s centennial anniversary. Looking toward that milestone, he has begun talking—to individuals, to constituent groups, and to leadership—about a possible second facilities bond to address the buildings that were not completed in the first bond. He would like to see a new science and math building and major renovations in the other older buildings on the Santa Rosa campus. He explained that the college is also out of compliance in many ADA areas, which will need to be addressed. In addition, he sees a need for an expanded Veteran’s Center, and some minor renovations at Shone Farm, the Public Safety Center, and the Petaluma campus. There is also a desire to have a permanent campus at the Southwest Center to show a commitment to an area of town from which many of our new students come.

His intent is to be transparent in this process. Ultimately, the Board decides whether or not to go forward with a bond measure, but he would like to be collaborative in the process of developing priorities. The first, small baby step would be to poll or survey voters to see if there is receptiveness to the idea of another bond. To that end, he and the Board are in the process of interviewing political consulting companies that are polling experts.

He explained that there are many other districts going for bonds right now, including neighboring districts in Marin, Napa, and Solano. Since students have a choice in where to attend, we need competitive facilities to attract them. Our faculty is excellent and deserves excellent facilities. He added that faculty members have been creative in the past in coming up with solutions to manage in our aging facilities, but some of those creative solutions are unsafe.

Questions & Answers

• Q: **How much longer do we have to pay on the first bond?**

A: So far, 12 of the original 30 years have been paid. It’s not unusual to pay on more than one bond at the same time, but there is a dollar limit on the amount of bond payments allowed per household.

• Q: **Is there a component carved out for IT in this new bond?**

A: Yes, a big part of it would be technology infrastructure and a student system upgrade. We would have an instructional IT department looking in the future at increasing mediated classrooms, flipped classrooms, larger rooms, and hybrid classes.

• Q: **Since 20 percent of the voters in the county are seniors, are there plans to pay special attention to this voter block?**

A: Yes, there are. We have been restoring some of our classes for seniors and will look closely at that group in the polling.

Dr. Chong pledged to keep faculty members informed as things progress and thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carol Valencia.