



*AFA is working for you.
The strength of faculty working together.*

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2015

(Approved by Executive Council on April 8, 2015)

Executive Councilors present (noted by *):

*Julie Thompson, presiding	*Paula Burks	*Sean Martin	*Matt Murray
*Filomena Avila	*Terry Ehret	*Molly Matheson	*MJ Papa
*Paulette Bell	*Karen Frindell Teuscher	*Jacqueline McGhee	*Margaret Pennington
*Denise Beeson	*Deirdre Frontczak	*Bud Metzger	*Michelle Van Aalst
*Shawn Brumbaugh	*Michelle Hughes Markovics	Terry Mulcaire	

Officers/Negotiators/Appointed Positions present: Ted Crowell, Mark Ferguson, Warren Ruud

Staff members present: Candy Shell, Carol Valencia

Faculty members present: Joe Anderson, Albert Yu

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 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 4:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 4:08 p.m.

MEMBER CONCERNS WITHIN AFA'S PURVIEW

1. **AFA Committee Appointments.** Terry Ehret brought up a concern about the timing of nominations and appointments for representatives to District-wide and AFA Standing Committees. Because adjunct faculty members do not know their teaching schedules until April, they don't know if they will be available during the committee meeting times. Julie responded that the scheduling process in some departments is unusually late this year (fall assignments are usually made in mid-March). Also, the timeline for committee appointments was set so that contract faculty members can build their teaching schedules around their college service commitments. She suggested that adjunct faculty members volunteer for committees that interest them with the understanding that changes can be made later, if needed.
2. **State Budget Hearing.** Deirdre Frontczak announced that there is a committee hearing of the Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance scheduled for Wednesday, April 8 in the late afternoon. Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) would like to see a sizable group of faculty members attend the hearing. Please see Deirdre if you're interested in attending. (See link to [Budget Subcommittee website](#).) There are also many "Point & Click" opportunities on the FACCC website to make your voice heard on the State budget and current legislation (<http://facc.org/>). Julie pointed out that there is an AFA Executive Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, April 8, which FACCC representatives Andrea York and Evan Hawkins will attend.

3. Adjunct Medical Benefits Program (AMBP). Margaret Pennington raised a question about the AMBP revenue line item labeled "ACSTT." Warren Ruud responded that ACSTT stands for the AFA College Service & Technology Training fund. Money from this fund was negotiated with the District to be applied to backfilling the Adjunct Medical Benefits Program (see [Article 10.04.B.6.c.](#)).

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 March 11, 2015 Executive Council meeting as submitted (17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Appointment of AFA Representatives to District-wide Committees for 2015-16**

Julie explained that nominations for open seats are up for appointment today. She asked for additional nominations for those committees with open seats. Filomena Avila volunteered for the Parking & Transportation Committee. Paula Burks volunteered for the Fringe Benefits Committee. Julie declared that all committee appointments are uncontested. A motion was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve the slate of candidates for AFA representatives to District-wide Committees (17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

2. **Appointment of Representatives to AFA Standing Committees for 2015-16**

Julie explained that nominations for open seats are up for appointment today. The Data Analyst and Note Taker appointments are on hold for now. She asked for additional nominations for those committees with open seats. There being no additional volunteers, a motion was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve the slate of candidates for AFA Standing Committee members (17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

OTHER REPORTS

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

California Community College Independents (CCCI) is holding its spring conference April 23-25 (Thursday through Saturday), in Sacramento. We have budgeted funds to send six attendees, and at least two of those attendees should be adjunct Councilors. Please let staff know by noon on April 8 if you're interested in attending.

2. **Treasurer's Report: February 2015.** Paula Burks reported briefly on the following items:

- The *Professional Fees: Accountant* expense was higher than expected.
- The revenue from adjunct faculty member dues and fees has been increasing and should be reflected in the March Treasurer's Report.

PRESENTATION

Legislative Report: *David Balla-Hawkins, California Community Colleges Independents Advocate*

- David thanked the Council for the invitation and explained that he will address five main areas and then open up the presentation for questions.
- Paid/Unpaid Leave. Currently, if faculty members are placed on "paid leave," they do not have due process rights. CCCI believes this is an incorrect interpretation of State law. A Bill proposed last year addressed the issue (see [AB 2559 Summary](#)). CCCI also requested a legal opinion from the State Legislative Council on the matter. They received an oral opinion supporting their view but are waiting for a written opinion. If a favorable written opinion is issued, it will go out to all California Community Colleges (CCCs).
- State Budget Progress:
 - There is lots of money for CCCs in the budget this year; however, the Governor has not yet prioritized Community College funding.
 - CCCI would like to see:
 - Funds to increase the hiring of full-time faculty members;
 - Funds for paid office hours for part-time faculty members—this is an issue of equity for faculty and access for students; and

- Funds for the unfunded infrastructure of the Student Success Act (EOPS, counselors, and disabled student program support).
- Current Legislation:
 - **AB 626** puts some teeth into making progress toward the full-time/part-time faculty ratio goal (75/25 percent) ([AB 626 Information](#)).
 - **AB 1010** regarding part-time faculty job stability (seniority rights, teaching load, etc.)—this Bill still needs some “tweaking” ([AB 1010 Information](#)).
 - **AB 490** regarding EOPS funding ([AB 490 Information](#)).
- Accreditation (ACCJC):
 - Background: CCCI sponsored the State audit of ACCJC last year. One result of that audit is that ACCJC is no longer the “sole accreditor” for the State—however, in all practicality, they still are. Some proposed solutions include getting permission from the U.S. Department of Education to allow accreditors from other regions to come into California; allowing Western Association of Schools & Colleges Senior College & University Commission (WASC Senior) to come into California; or setting up California’s own accrediting commission for CCCs.
 - **SB 1068 (2014)** prohibits accrediting commissions from collecting fees that would be used for their attorney fees; allows the Board of Governors to set up standards for accreditation and give priority to those accrediting groups who abide by those standards; and requires that any new accreditation policies with associated costs have an open legislative hearing ([SB 1068 Information](#)).
 - Next year CCCI would like to work on eliminating the requirement for SLOs; Districts would be able to use other means to show “student success.” This will be a discussion topic at the CCCI conference in April.
- Legislative Lobbying. The FACCC website has links to letters of support. David believes that handwritten letters are better and get more attention from Legislators. If email messages are used to express support, thousands of them are needed in order to make an impact. Other ideas include face-to-face meetings with legislators in their District offices on Fridays or bringing legislators to your campus. (AFA is hosting visits from Assemblymember Marc Levine and Senator Mike McGuire in April.)
- Questions & Answers:
 - Q: Regarding paid office hours for part-time faculty members, I heard that the legislature wants to put the money in the general fund rather than in a categorical fund. Is that true?
 - The categorical fund is already in place—it is just not funded. We are pushing for this as a “student access issue” because legislators will support that.
 - Q: How soon do we need to send off handwritten letters in order to have an impact?
 - All Bills are on hold in March, and then hearings will begin in April and continue until May 15; all exact budget figures will be in place by May 15. Getting letters written and sent in the next three weeks would be best.
 - Q: What is the likelihood of the passage of the bill regarding the full-time/part-time faculty ratio?
 - It will be tough in its first year. Leadership from both houses have concerns about it. It could also get buried in the Appropriations Committee. In addition, Governor Brown doesn’t like “mandates.” If it doesn’t pass this year, we will try again in future years. The worst thing would be if the Governor vetoed the bill because then we would have to wait until he’s out of office to pursue it again.
 - Q: Is the Higher Education Committee functioning better this year?
 - Yes. Assm. Medina is a bright leader and understands the issues.
 - There was a FACCC call on SB 373 regarding overload assignments. What do you think of the bill?
 - It’s a messy bill that has problems—I think we should let it die. The full-time faculty overload assumptions in the bill will not solve the full-time faculty hiring issues.
 - Q: Since ACCJC is under federal jurisdiction, can we hold them accountable in federal court?

- The way to hold them accountable is through the U.S. Department of Education, where their current status is "on probation." We are also working with our Congressional representatives to expand the scope of accreditation in California—the problem is that ACCJC has monopoly status in California right now.
- Q: Regarding the focus on restoring categorical funding for part-time faculty office hours, there were three categorical funds cut during the recession: part-time pay equity, part-time medical benefits, and part-time office hours. What is being done to restore the first two?
 - We are not giving up on them, but we have the best chance of getting part-time office hours into the budget this year. Districts have equity money that could be used for the other two, but that would have to be bargained at the local level.
- Q: We met with Senator McGuire in Sacramento recently and talked with him about the spirit of the Affordable Care Act and whether it should cover part-time faculty members who work at more than one campus and are, in effect, full-time workers for the State. McGuire was receptive to the idea.
 - That's a great idea for future legislation. The problem would be deciding who would pay for the benefits.

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

Minutes submitted by Carol Valencia.