

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Educational Services Center
770 Wilshire Boulevard
Board Room – First Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
Friday, May 22, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Committee: Rose Bustos, Student Trustee; James Butler-Zetino, LACC; John Clerx, ESC; Rebecca Estrada, ELAC; Blanca Garcia, LAMC; M. Sonia Lopez, ELAC; Christian Marfil-Amatulli, Pierce College; Ebonea McAlister, WLAC; Arthur Minasyan, LAVC; Joe Ramirez, LAMC; Allison Reid, LATTTC

Participants: David Beaulieu, DAS; Rihao Gao, ELAC; Nehasi Lee, Compton Community Educational Center; Teresa Martinez, LAMC; Dexter Mayfield, LATTTC; Lisa Muñoz, LATTTC; Rachael Richards; Rodney Robinson, LATTTC; Brandy Ruiz, WLAC; David Sherrard, LATTTC; Linda Tong, LACC

Student Trustee Bustos called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

At roll call, the following colleges were present: ELAC, LACC, LAMC, Pierce College, LATTTC, LAVC, and WLAC.

Absent: LAHC and LASC

A quorum was present.

The participants introduced themselves.

PUBLIC AGENDA SPEAKERS

Ms. Rachael Richards indicated that there was an item on the Board agenda of May 13, 2009 regarding Board Rule 91203. Visitors Who Disrupt. She requested that this item be presented to the SAC for consultation.

Mr. Nehasi Lee addressed the Committee regarding the importance of student governance at the community colleges.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

The following individuals reported on issues, activities, and events at their respective campuses:

Ms. Ebonea McAlister, WLAC; Ms. Rebecca Estrada, ELAC; Mr. Christian Marfil-Amatulli, Pierce College; Mr. Arthur Minasyan, LAVC; Mr. James Butler-Zetino, LACC; Ms. Blanca Garcia, LAMC; and Ms. Allison Reid, LATTTC.

Mr. Marfil-Amatulli stated for the record that at the special meeting of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) of May 8, 2009, he was told by the Dean of Student Services Disciplinary Officer and the Vice President of Student Services of Pierce College that he is not allowed to attend any Ralph M. Brown Act meetings.

ISSUES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Marfil-Amatulli expressed his concern that a Notice Report regarding a Board Rule about disruptive behavior at the colleges was presented at the Board meeting of May 13, 2009 without being sent to the SAC for consultation.

Student Trustee Bustos indicated that a vote is not taken on Notice Reports.

Mr. Clerx explained the procedure for noticing and adopting Board Rules.

Student Trustee Bustos requested that the Board Rules regarding disruptive behavior at the colleges be placed on the next SAC agenda for consultation.

Board Rules 91203. Visitors Who Disrupt and 91204. Non-Student on Campus Without Lawful Business Thereon will be placed on the SAC agenda of June 26, 2009 for consultation.

There was discussion regarding the statewide budget deficit and its impact on the community colleges.

CONSULTATION ITEMS

Administrative Regulation E-XX Student Discipline Records and Transcript Notations (Draft)

Board Rule 9803.28 Academic Dishonesty

Administrative Regulation E-86 Student Representation Fee/Fund Account

Copies of each of the aforementioned documents were provided.

Mr. Clerx explained each of the aforementioned items.

Board Rule 91103. Student Discipline Forms (Draft)

Draft copies of Board Rule 91103. were provided.

Mr. Clerx indicated that this item was discussed at the SAC meeting of May 8, 2009.

Student Trustee Bustos indicated that this item is being brought back because the Committee has requested examples of the types of changes that would be recommended on the Student Discipline Forms.

Mr. Clerx indicated that this Board Rule is not yet going forward, but he will provide the Committee with examples of the recommended changes.

(Mr. Butler-Zetino, LACC, left at 10:42 a.m. and was replaced by Ms. Linda Tong, ASO Vice President, LACC)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Special "Admins" running for election to ASO Offices

Mr. Clerx indicated that he checked with the General Counsel regarding the question of whether special "admins" are eligible to run for election to ASO offices. The response was that they are eligible.

Student Discipline Procedures

Mr. Clerx indicated that he has discussed this issue with the Vice Presidents of Student Services as it relates to ASO officers. The Vice Presidents are in the process of creating a Student Discipline Task Force to look into student discipline issues, specifically as they relate to the former ASO President of LAHC and the ASO President of Pierce College. He indicated that the Task Force would include three students to be appointed by the SAC and stated that these students cannot be from LAHC or Pierce College.

Student Trustee Bustos entertained a motion to appoint three students to the Student Discipline Task Force.

Motion by Ms. Tong, seconded by Mr. Minasyan, to appoint three students to the Student Discipline Task Force.

APPROVED: 7 Ayes

The following individuals volunteered to serve on the Task Force:

Ms. Teresa Martinez, ASO President-elect, LAMC; Ms. Allison Reid, LATTTC; and Mr. Arthur Minasyan, ASU President-elect, LAVC.

The alternates will be Mr. Dexter Mayfield, incoming ASO Vice President, LATTTC, and Ms. Lisa Muñoz, ASO Parliamentarian-elect, LATTTC.

Mr. Clerx indicated that the charge of the Task Force will be to review the Student Discipline Procedures and recommend revisions.

ASO Employee Policy

Mr. Clerx explained the policy for using ASO funds to employ Student Workers to assist with ASO operations.

ASO Advisor's Role

Student Trustee Bustos indicated that there is an action item regarding the ASO Advisor's role later on today's agenda.

Student Trustee Elections: Provisions for Write-in Candidates

Mr. Clerx explained the policy for write-in candidates in Student Trustee elections. He indicated that a similar policy could be implemented for ASO elections.

Student Trustee Bustos entertained a motion to institute a policy for write-in candidates for ASO elections that would be similar to the policy for Student Trustee elections.

Motion by Mr. Marfil-Amatulli, seconded by Mr. Minasyan, to institute a policy for write-in candidates for ASO elections.

There was discussion regarding the eligibility requirements for ASO officers.

Mr. Clerx indicated that he would draft the language for the write-in policy.

Motion by Ms. Reid, seconded by Ms. Tong, to amend the main motion to state that a draft policy would be written and presented to the SAC for review before a final policy is instituted.

APPROVED: 7 Ayes

MOTION APPROVED AS AMENDED: 7 Ayes

The draft policy is currently in the process of being written.

Transitional Procedures for ASO Officers

Student Trustee Bustos indicated that there is an action item regarding transitional procedures later on today's agenda.

Evaluation of Instructors

There was discussion regarding the procedure for evaluating instructors at the different colleges.

(Ms. Garcia, LAMC, left at 11:24 a.m.)

Removal of Students from ASO Office

No discussion.

Recycling Program – Joe Lucas, Build—LACCD

Mr. Lucas was not present.

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ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Richards indicated that she submitted the following resolutions at the state level and modified them to make them applicable to the LACCD.

Resolution – Academic Curriculum and Student Government Operations Legalities

Motion by Ms. Estrada, seconded by Ms. McAlister, to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Marfil-Amatulli offered the following amendments:

- WHEREAS, California Education Code sections 76060 – 76067 afford student organizations the opportunity to exist and The Ralph M. Brown Act in California Government Code section 54953 requires all legislative bodies of a local agency to have open access to the public and be transparent, and associated student bodies are required to comply with The Ralph M. Brown Act; and
- WHEREAS, Many colleges require students participating in student governments in the California Community College system to enroll (or highly suggest that students enroll) in leadership courses; and
- WHEREAS, There are a variety of legal and ethical complications with this practice including 1) classes require students to enroll, resulting in having to pay to be a part of student government; 2) The Ralph M. Brown Act requires open meetings and closed class sessions combined causes limitations for scheduling meetings; 3) some class activities may require students to violate their student body governing documents; and 4) student government participants may be subject to instructor influence to achieve a good grade, which may interfere with their role in student government or individual free speech limitation, as well as well as to open them up to potential retaliation because of different philosophies; and
- WHEREAS, Faculty have academic freedom and control over their class, which can cause conflict as students have no legal say over how the class runs the student government meetings, which ultimately diminishes the power of the student voice and role in self governance; and
- WHEREAS, Being the state of the California economy, it is prudent to utilize all funds to support only essential skills classes; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the **Student Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Community College District** hereby **formally requests that the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District** works with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to explore the practices on local campuses that impede students' rights to participate in college governance, particularly as it relates to the development of student government courses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby formally requests the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District to address these concerns immediately to prevent the integration of a class or lab with the official meeting of student governments as to prevent further violations to the students' rights as to shared governance.

The amendments were accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED: 7 Ayes (includes proxy vote for LAMC)

Resolution – Student Government Alumni Consultation

Motion by Mr. Marfil-Amatulli, seconded by Ms. Estrada, to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Clerx recommended that this resolution include the same amendments as the previous resolution.

Mr. Marfil-Amatulli offered the following amendments:

WHEREAS, California Code of Regulations Title 5 section 51023.7(a)(4) states, "The governing board shall recognize each associated student organization or its equivalent within the district as provided by Education Code section 76060, as the representative body of the students to offer opinions and to make recommendations to the administration of a college and to the governing board of a district with regard to district and college policies and procedures that have or will have a significant effect on students. The selection of student representatives to serve on college or district committees, task forces, or other governance groups shall be made, after consultation with designated parties, by the appropriate officially recognized associated student organization(s) within the district."; and

WHEREAS, Due to the lack of historical memory, operations, resources, and training of the student's legal rights, liabilities, and the turnover of students in California Community Colleges, new student government members may have the possibility of being indoctrinated by the advisors' vision of student government to the detriment of having a student driven organization which may lead to limitations in outside resources, networking, training, and the retention of said historical records; and

WHEREAS, It is important for student governments to have historical information about their past positions and other actions to protect the historical integrity of student government, which is essential to continue building a strong student governance body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby formally requests that the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby encourages local ~~senates~~ Associated Student Organizations to work with their ~~administrators~~ College Presidents and ASO Advisors to ensure that students have support to establish a mechanism for providing students with historical records of their local senate administration and activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby formally requests that the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby establishes a student government alumni network in order to ensure continuity of governance statewide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby formally requests that the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby encourages its local Associated Student Body Organizations to create and implement similar local alumni networks to protect the integrity of student government locally.

The amendments were accepted by the seconder of the motion.

Motion by Ms. McAlister to table this resolution as amended until the next SAC meeting.

The motion to table failed due to the lack of a second.

Motion by Ms. Estrada, seconded by Mr. Marfil-Amatulli, to withdraw this resolution as amended until the SAC meeting of June 26, 2009.

APPROVED: 6 Ayes

Withdrawn as amended until the SAC meeting of June 26, 2009.

Resolution – Establish Universal Legal Limitations on Advisor’s Role Districtwide

Motion by Mr. Marfil-Amatulli, seconded by Ms. Estrada, to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Marfil-Amatulli offered the following amendments:

WHEREAS, The California State laws define the legal role of the advisor as only the oversight of funds of Student Organizations. California Education Code section 76063 limits their authority to the expenditure of student government funds as one of the three signatories to release said funds legislated by the student organizations and does not require advisors to be present during shared government meetings; and

WHEREAS, To safeguard the operations of student government administrations and to preserve the shared governance autonomy intended in the aforementioned code which clearly defines that a limitation exists for advisors, whether they are certified staff, faculty, or administrators; and

WHEREAS, Advisors attend the Associated Student shared governance meetings as directed by the Los Angeles Community College District for consultation purposes, recognizes their presence and opinions are at the collegiate courtesy and discretion of the students’ governing boards; and

WHEREAS, Due to the lack of consistent documentation of historical memory, operations, resources, and training of the student government legal rights, liabilities, and a high turnover of students in the California Community College system; and

WHEREAS, New student government members may be subjected to possible indoctrination by the advisor’s vision of what student government, to the possible detriment of a student-driven purpose organization, may lead to lack of access to the representation fees, limitations of outside resources, networking, and training (i.e. SSCCC General Assembly attendance) for students; and

WHEREAS, Philosophical and political ideologies may exist between the Associated Students administration and local college administration which may cause conflict, possibly resulting in advisors’ overexerting personal opinions that may impede the students’ ability to fully participate in shared governance and exercise free speech; now, therefore, be it

- RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby highly recommends that the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District ensure that the students shall fully participate in shared governance by hearing and addressing local issues immediately upon complaint so as not to impede student organization business; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee hereby highly recommends the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District to establish clear and concise language as to the role of the advisor, whether they are certified staff, faculty, or administrators as defined by the Education Code and provide universal training for advisors and administrators in consultation with student leaders to foster collegiate relations; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee hereby highly recommends the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District to recognize that the Associated Student Organizations are ~~an~~ administrative shared government ~~body~~ bodies and are additionally able to conduct other activities (such as to fundraise) and that the Associated Student Organizations are an equal shared governing body and that this information is disseminated to the local campus administrations.

The amendments were accepted by the seconder of the motion.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED: 7 Ayes (includes proxy vote for LAMC)

Resolution – Transitional Training Requirements and Digitalized Archive of Records for Student Government

Withdrawn until the SAC meeting of June 26, 2009.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

None.

DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

Mr. David Beaulieu reported that the Financial Aid Resolution that was approved by the SAC on April 24, 2009 was approved by the District Academic Senate with the following amendment:

- WHEREAS, The mission of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is to provide access to quality instruction to all those capable of benefitting, many of whom are low-income, disadvantaged, and underrepresented; and
- WHEREAS, Students' ability to attend college is affected by significant related expenses such as the costs for books, transportation, and childcare, as well as general living expenses, which continue to rise while earning capacity diminishes, all of which have led the Associated Student Organization (ASO) officers and the District Academic Senate to oppose an additional burden on student resources in the form of increased student fees; and
- WHEREAS, While applications have increased this year, more than 84 percent of LACCD students qualify for federal grants; yet less than 20 percent obtain them (approximate figures for 2006-07), based on a recent study by the District Research and Planning Office, due in part to the overly complicated and repetitive application process; and

WHEREAS, Faculty, administrators, and staff, working with ASO leaders, can have a dramatic positive impact on financial aid application and award totals, as has already been shown at some District colleges and at the very successful February Town Hall meetings on financial aid, and as is supported in statewide research (Green Lights & Red Tape; Improving Student Access to Financial Aid in California Community Colleges, 2007); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee and the District Academic Senate hereby urge the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District to encourage college administrators, faculty, and staff to take ~~all~~ **necessary** steps to boost our financial aid applications and award totals.

Mr. Clerx indicated that he would look into the next step for placing this resolution on the Board agenda.

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION

Resource Table Student Representative – June 10 (ESC) and June 24 (ESC)

Mr. Kenneth Gulley will serve as the Student Representative at the Resource Table for the Board meetings of June 10, 2009 and June 24, 2009.

SAC OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

SUMMARY – NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Student Affairs Committee is scheduled for Friday, June 26, 2009 at 9 a.m. at the Educational Services Center. The deadline for submitting agenda items is June 12, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.