

MINUTES OF THE
COMPTON CENTER FACULTY COUNCIL
June 4, 2009

Council Members: Jerome Evans, Ahmad Manzoor, Chris Halligan, Art Flemming, Shemiran Lazar, Jose Villalobos, Michael Odanaka, Darwin Smith, Fred Lamm, Estina Pratt, Tom Norton, Saul Panski. (12 Council Members present)

Administrators: Dr. Dever, Dr. Cox. (2 Administrators present)

Guests: Chelvi Subramaniam, Diane Collins, Celia Valdez, Ella Stewart, David McPatchell, Cheryl Threadgill, Cornelia Lyles, Mike Khalilzadeh. (8 Guests present)

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Faculty Council was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Saul Panski

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approval moved by Pratt and seconded by Ahmad. Passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Faculty Council moved ahead with Agenda without action on this item.

IV. **Reports**

Chairperson

Panski indicated that there were unpredictable budgetary items that might crop up during the summer and he asked for the consent of the body to hold any necessary special meetings during the summer. There was strong affirmation.

He clarified ECC policy on the number of units a student could take during the summer session and indicated that Compton was seeking approval to have a student be able to take up to six units in each five week session rather than a maximum of eight for the entire summer

Provost

Dr. Cox discussed the accomplishments of the last year, focusing

on enrollment, capacity, and credibility. He stated that the scheduled commencement ceremonies were sure to be a watershed event and a “first milestone” on the road to recovery. He stated that he felt that the year coming to an end had been a positive one in many ways. Members of the Council concurred with this estimation.

V. **Discussion Items**

It was duly noted Dr. Harmon was ill at this juncture; thus her item (Student Success Evaluation) would be deferred.

Technology Plan

Dr. Dever then discussed the Technology Plan, which she explained was a component of the campus’ overall Master Plan. She stated that it had utilized data from both older Compton and El Camino Technology Plans and had been drafted with significant input from both Rudy Ramos and John Wagstaff. It also incorporated elements from plans at other community colleges.

Subramaniam asked about the absence of timelines, particularly for “vision items” and was told that if she would refer to “task items” she would note that they were linked to timelines.” Subramniam also brought up the question of resource availability for such basic items as screens.

Smith asked if there was any consideration of reestablishing a digital photography program. Stewart asked about re-establishing a culinary arts program and was told that the program had been inactivated by ECC and was not currently in the curriculum.

Dever added that more than \$50,000,000 was being allocated by the State to replace the Compton infrastructure and a great deal of this work would relate to the upgrading of technology.

There was discussion of how much of the budget should be allocated for technology. It was suggested by Dr. Dever that 3% of budget might be appropriate.

Panski stressed that it was unlikely that funds would be available for many vital areas and pointed out that the possibility of future staff furloughs has even been brought up. The fiscal situation in the State, he stressed, was very frightening.

Distance Education Program

Dr. Dever also provided the Council with an update on the Distance Education program, noting that online classes are increasingly popular because students can adjust their courses to meet their work schedule and family commitments.

At the same time there are ongoing concerns about the high attrition rate and the need to develop measures to guarantee academic rigor. These concerns have increasingly been expressed by the ACCJC.

Compton, she added, was in a unique position to increase its DE offerings at this time, when other institutions were scaling back their courses because of fiscal constraints.

Faculty involvement, she stressed, was the key to making this program Successful and she singled out the contributions made by the ECC DEAC Committee, which has Compton representation. She added that the Committee had convened a one day summit during the spring.

Questions to be asked about DE courses include:

- Are students prepared to take and pass the course? This includes questions of computer skills and expectations. She pointed out that completion of such courses as CIS 13 and Academic Strategies 60 needed to be considered.
- Are instructors sufficiently trained to teach such a course?
- Are the courses themselves complete and designed to ensure academic rigor? Are instructor expectations clear, understandable, and unambiguous?
- Are sufficient support services in place to assist DE students? She pointed out that a staff member had just been reassigned to staff a DE help desk for 50% of her load.
- What procedures should be put in place to ensure quality control in the DE program.

Subramaniam suggested that new courses undergo a test run. Manzoor questioned whether others should have access to an instructor's course shell, citing academic freedom issues. Panski suggested that such concerns would need to be negotiated with the Federation.

VI. Action Items

None

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was brought by Halligan/seconded by Smith.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.