

Academic Senate Grossmont College

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – September 17, 2001

PRESENT: Cathy Harvey(President), Mary Rider(Vice President), Beth Smith, Jerry Buckley(Senate Officers at Large); P.J. Ortmeier, (AOJ); Jeff Irwin(Art); Gregg Robinson(Behavioral Science); Dave Wertlieb, Diane Merlos (Biological Sciences); Sandy Sikes(Business Office Technology); Rick Kirby(Cardiovascular Technology); Cary Willard, Tom Olmstead (Chemistry); Barbara Chernofsky Sonia Gaiane, (Child Development); Wayne Allen, Janet Gelb, Diane Mayne-Stafford(CSIS); Bonnie Shcmiege, Mary Rose (Counseling); Jane Nolan, Jennifer Carmean(DSPS); Mike Matherly(Earth Sciences); Gary Phillips, Julie Cardenas, Marilyn Ivanovici, Qais Sako, Sydney Brown(English); Pat Bennett, Virginia Berger, Nancy Herzfeld-Pipkin(ESL); Sylvia Montejano(EOPS); Bushra Jonna, Jim Symington(Exercise Science); Yolanda Guerrero(Foreign Language); Mel Amov(History); Zoe Close, William Hoaglin(Humanities); Patricia Morrison(Library); Peg Hovde, Jenny Vanden Eynden(Math); Evan Wirig, William Snead(Media Communications); Jane West, Susan Wild, Pat Bradley(Nursing); Marcelle Karlin(Occupational Therapy); Roxane Tuscany(Speech Communications); Craig Everett(Theatre Arts).

ABSENT: Rick Michelson(AOJ); Ron Tatro, Les Lawrence (Art); Ben Newkirk, Leilani Holmes, Israel Cardona(Behavioral Science); Jed Ashley(Business); Don Ridgeway(Cardiovascular Technology); Peggy Shepard (Counseling); Tom Gamboa(Cross Cultural Studies); Joe Orate(Culinary Arts); Cathy Meyer(Dance); Tim Cliffe(Earth Sciences); Chuck Passentino(English); Antonio Crespo, Paul Vincent(Foreign Language); Jerry Baydo(History); Gene Britt(International Business); Curtis Stevens(Library); Steve Davis(Math); Steve Baker, Fred Benedetti (Music); Kritin Maria Reichardt(Part Time Representatives); Dennis Collins, Patti Tsai(Physics, Astronomy & Physical Sciences); Bill Cummings(Political Economy); Lorenda Seibold-Phalan(Respiratory Therapy); Sheri Sjoberg(Speech Communications); Henry Jordan, Beth Mallet-Anderson(Theatre Arts).

GUESTS: Dr. Ted Martinez, College President; Joel Javinez, District Public Safety Director; Bob Eygenhuysen, College Risk Manager; Rocky Rose, Classified Senate President; Kurt Brauer, CSEA President; Richard Ferrell, ASGC President, Peter White, VPSS; Dean Colli, VPAA; Jack Peters, Students Affairs; Bonnie Price & Sharon Sullivan, Nursing Department.

RECORDER: Martha Garcia

I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Call to order

Cathy Harvey called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Motion to approve the agenda

With the support of the Senate Officers, Cathy Harvey set aside the regularly scheduled Senate agenda and opened the meeting by welcoming the campus leadership to lead a discussion and field questions pertinent to the natural disaster of September 11, 2001. There was no opposition. Those present were Dr. Omero Suarez, Chancellor; Charleen McMahan, VC Human Resources; Dr. Ted Martinez, College President; Joel Javinez, District Public Safety Director; Bob Eygenhuysen, College Risk Manager; Rocky Rose, Classified Senate President; Kurt Brauer, CSEA President; and Richard Ferrell, ASGC President. She thanked them all for their support and asked Dr. Suarez to speak to the Senate.

Dr Suarez informed senators that the District is working in close contact with administration, faculty and CSEA representatives to help individuals move through this period of shock and to begin the

healing process. Dr. Suarez believes that the country should not be paralyzed; therefore, he is very supportive of plans and activities that help people move forward and bring business back to normal.

The following concerns were raised by senators and faculty members:

1. *Is there an Emergency Evacuation Plan in place?*
2. *Is there an estimated time for evacuation?*
3. *How may the college know that the plan is effective?*
4. *How is it determined that an evacuation is needed?*
5. *In the event of needed evacuation, how will faculty be informed?*
6. *Does Grossmont College have the authority, in cases of emergency to physically control the street- lights that control traffic exiting the campus?*

Joel Javines responded to faculty's questions by explaining that an Emergency Evacuation Plan is in place. The plan was carefully developed based on experiences faced in the past by colleges and by many other institutions, and is modeled after other local, state and federal emergency plans. However, the evacuation time and the effectiveness of the plan depend on the circumstances in which the emergency occurs and on people's responses. He also explained that the Chancellor determines when an evacuation is needed and that the Public Safety Department uses every means of communication to make sure that every individual gets informed immediately. Security officers will go personally to every classroom to make sure that the whole campus is evacuated and to monitor that it is done in the most orderly and safe way. He added that the college has authority to physically control the campus' traffic lights for faster and more effective evacuation.

A faculty member suggested that the college form a team to be trained and get specific assignments to help in the event of emergency evacuation. Another member supported the idea and added that the team should wear tags or uniforms for clear and easy identification. Dr. Suarez is very interested in the whole campus' input and welcomed suggestions. He will distribute the current Emergency Evacuation Plan to faculty and staff. Then, recommendations may be made for possible changes.

Mary Rider informed the Senate that the counseling department has received some queries about emergency evacuation practice drills. She suggested that the college contact groups to provide written directions, instructions and assistance for actual practice. Charleen McMahan explained that the Risk Management Department is working on that matter and will provide information when more concrete plans are made.

A faculty member expressed concerns because instructors need to be prepared to help their students cope with their thoughts, feelings and reactions to the recent disaster in order to maintain focus on learning. Mary Rider informed members that a workshop has been scheduled for Monday,

September 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Counseling Center. The workshop will be on strategies and guidelines for addressing students' reactions to recent tragic events.

Charleen McMahan raised her concern for students in the military reserves who may be soon called up to active duty. Peter White explained that the college is prepared to help those students withdraw from their classes, and to receive a refund of their enrollment fees and cost of books. The Admissions Office will provide assistance and information that these students may need.

Cathy Harvey invited Richard Ferrell, ASGC President to speak to the Senate on behalf of students. Richard shared the students' positive and negative reactions. There has been a lot of fear and anger among students; however, the ASGC is promoting unity among students as members of this community to help the victims of the recent tragedy. The student association is developing a state-wide donation program with the American Red Cross. An activity has been planned for September 18, where students will be given the opportunity to express themselves. Jack Peters will work with Richard Ferrell to make sure that the event is handled in the safest way. Also, Richard spoke on behalf of students asking for instructors' consideration and sensitivity toward students affected by the tragedy.

Dr. Ted Martinez informed senators that he has been working in close communication with the Chancellor to make sure that the whole campus is moving in the same direction. He expressed his interest in coordinating efforts, centralizing information and getting responses. "Grossmont College Responds" is a link to the Grossmont College Home Page website created to receive faculty, staff and students' input to make sure that ideas are considered and that events and activities are posted.

Cathy Harvey presented the following resolution that had already been drafted to address the current tragedy:

Whereas our nation has faced an unspeakable tragedy and all of the campus constituencies have been and will continue to be greatly affected,

Whereas the campus community has the responsibility to contribute, participate and provide direction to respond appropriately to unexpected tragic events and stabilize the learning and working environment,

Whereas our strength lies in the fact that we are most effective when we join to share our expertise for the common good of all within our campus community,

Be it resolved that the Grossmont College Academic Senate will continue to reinforce our commitment to maintaining civility and mutual respect with one another.

Be it further resolved that the Grossmont College Academic Senate will seek to address issues that are the result of tragic events by immediately forming a permanent centralized Crisis Responses Team represented by all campus constituencies. This team will be responsive to the needs of the campus community and the charge of the campus constituencies.

Due to the lack of time at today's meeting, further discussion of the resolution will take place at the next Academic Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.