

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT ACADEMIC SENATES**  
**of Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2015, 10:05-11:50 in Room 26-220**

**Attendance (Grossmont College):** Randy Abshier, Augustin Albarran, Kathleen Aylward, Liz Barrow, Lara Braff, Patrice Braswell, Doug Brownell, Johannes Bruestle, Jennifer Carmean, Sky Chafin, Zoe Close, Judd Curran, Victoria Curran, Gareth Davies-Morris, Stephanie Decker, Dave Dillon, Mohammad Emami, Graig Everett, Angie Gish, Sue Gonda, Carmen Hernandez, Bill Hoaglin, Brian Keliher, Cheryl Kerns-Campbell, Martin Larter, Barbara Loveless, Lisa Maloy, Scott McGann, Kathy Meyer, Cathy Miller, David Milroy, David Mullen, Ruth Navaro, Merryl Nelson, John Oakes, Domenica Oliveri, Chuck Passentino, Michael Perez, Mike Qualls, Lida Rafia, Gregg Robinson, Priscilla Rogers, Qais Sako, Bonnie Schmiege, Denise Schulmeyer, Robin Sepulveda, Laura Sim, Scott Therkalsen, Renee Tuller, Diana Vance, Paul Vincent, Jim Wilsterman, Evan Wirig, Jessica Woods, Tina Young, Virginia Young.

**Attendance (Cuyamaca College):** Mary Asher-Fitzpatrick, Candace Boeck, Lindy Brazil, Claudia Cuz-Flores, Ian Duckles, Bryan Elliott, Lauren Halsted, Scott Herrin, Rachel Jacob-Almeida, Raad Jerjis, Margaret Jones, Manuel Mancillas, David McGreg, Kristin McGregor, Jesus Miranda, Marie Ramos, Cyrus Saghafi, Patricia Santana, Pat Setzer, Seth Slater, Rob Stafford, Patrick Thiss, Peter Utgaard, Joseph Young.

**I. Welcome and Introductions – Tate Hurvitz and Alicia Muñoz**

- A. Introductions:** All individuals present were asked to stand, introduce themselves, their discipline(s), and College.
- B. Acknowledgement of Senate Officers:** Tate Hurvitz asked all Grossmont Senate officers to please stand and be acknowledged. Alicia Muñoz then asked all Cuyamaca Senate officers to please do the same.

**II. State of the District – Chancellor Cindy Miles**

- A. Initiatives:** There are a number of large initiatives currently active at the federal, state, and regional levels that affect the District. The following is currently taking place at the Federal level:
- Reauthorization is currently being discussed in the Legislature regarding the Higher Education Act;
  - Colleges are trying to reinstate year-round Pell Grants so that students can take more courses throughout the year;
  - A pilot program for inmates to take higher education courses while they are incarcerated is currently being conducted. This pilot may help colleges tap into an underserved cohort and allow individuals to experience the rigor of college-level work before being released;
  - Competency-based education is becoming extremely popular with for-profit higher learning institutions. While this type of education has not typically been a part of traditional education, it can be done and will likely be a topic of discussion in the future; and
  - There is a push being made to decouple accreditation status with financial aid. A recent publication from Senator Lamar Alexander is also advocating that colleges should be held partially responsible for students who default on their student loans.

There are a number of initiatives also taking place at the State level that impact the District:

- The Taskforce on Workforce, Job Creation, and the Economy has made recommendations that are likely to affect community colleges. Some of the recommendations include better defining career pathways and qualifications, and emphasis has been placed on partnerships between colleges and organizations that create jobs in the local community. Any monies that colleges receive will likely come in the form of restricted funds and effects seen from the findings of this taskforce will likely be in line with Student Success efforts.
- The Chancellor has been serving on the State Chancellor's newest Accreditation Taskforce. This is the third taskforce that has convened in the last seven years and was brought together to address concerns from colleges across the state. The taskforce has come to a strong consensus on its recommendations, including an emphasis on maintaining regional accreditation, and the report should be released some time later this year.

- There is pending legislation titled AB 288 “The College and Career Access Pathways Act” that is expected to positively affect dual enrollment for high school students. This legislation will open many of the barriers that community colleges face in trying to recruit students and will also help community colleges and high schools exchange data.
- AB1010, a bill affecting part-time faculty seniority, is currently being discussed in the Legislature. This bill aims to grant security and priority rights to part-time faculty. Since GCCCD already has a priority process in place for part-time faculty, this will not likely have a large effect on faculty in the District.

The District is also currently involved with a number of local initiatives that should positively affect both colleges:

- The District has received a College and Career Pathways grant of almost \$13 million to help align curriculum and help the Colleges build better courses for students to obtain skills necessary for entering the workforce prepared.
- “A Way with Words” is partnering with Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges to honor distinguished alumni and their contributions. A fundraising event to support both organizations will be held on September 17. More information about this event is available on the GCCCD website.
- On October 14-17, the Association of Community College Trustees will be holding a Conference in San Diego. Trustees from all over the country, including individuals from GCCCD, will be participating in the event.

**B. Budget:** The District’s budget for this year is the highest that it has ever received, but costs have also risen substantially. Utility costs are currently up 15%; health benefits are up 5%; and STRS/PERS will need \$6.3 million in addition contributions through 2020 to meet new mandates. Enrollments are also soft. This is why enrollment management is so important right now. It’s critical that the Colleges are offering the right classes to students at the right time in the right sequence. The District is also actively trying to recruit students and help the Colleges with Outreach. Currently, a commercial is being run on Cox Cable to help recruit students. Other forms of media including Pandora, bus ads, radio, and Spanish radio, are also being used to recruit students to the Colleges. The East County Education Alliance is another resource that the District is utilizing to bolster enrollment. The Alliance will be celebrating its one year anniversary in September where a joint trustee meeting will be held. A summit will also be held on September 30 where the Alliance will unveil its new scholarship.

**C. AB 86:** The San Diego East Region Adult Education Consortium has been formed in response to the passage of new legislation to help alleviate redundancies and confusion between the State’s adult education and community college systems. This consortium will help define clearer pathways for college and career readiness, leading more students to the District in the future.

### III. **Microsoft Office Updates – Tate Hurvitz**

An email was sent out by Brian Nath to all staff and faculty on July 23 regarding the District’s Microsoft Office Suite update from the 2010 version to the 2013 version. Office 2013 may be installed anytime at your convenience, but must be done by the end of November. Faculty members may also get a free version of the software for their home computers. Individuals who have problems installing the new software should contact District IS.

### IV. **Achieving the Dream – Tate Hurvitz**

The District is currently in the beginning stages of its partnership with Achieving the Dream which will help the Colleges focus on a small number of initiatives to promote student success and equity. Each college will have its own foci to help students best and the District will also participate by help ensure continuity and coherency between both campuses. Kickoff events will be held at both campuses on Friday, September 18. All interested individuals are invited to participate in these events.

### V. **Budget and Enrollment Management – Tate Hurvitz**

While the budget numbers received from the State look good, costs have risen dramatically and a large portion of the funds that will be received are coming in the form of earmarked categorical funds. Growth marks

are also playing a crucial role right now. While Cuyamaca is currently on track to meet its 2% growth mark, Grossmont is not. This has an implication of over \$1 million for the Grossmont budget which is why so much emphasis is being placed on recruitment and retention.

Enrollment management is also critical right now. From an Academic Senate perspective, however, it is critical that the enrollment management process be a collaborative process. When decisions need to be made, conversations need to be held between administrators and the individuals who created the schedule (Chairs). Holistic understanding comes from conversation with department chairs and coordinators. One proposal currently under consideration is the formation of a working group, including chairs and deans, to come to consensus on a process document to help ensure a collaborative process moving forward.

Multiple faculty members expressed concern in regard to the District's current calendar format since it is one of the only community colleges whose calendar does not match that of San Diego State University. The District's late registration dates were also a topic of concern since very little reaction time is currently available to schedule creators if problems arise.

#### **VI. Canvas – Alicia Muñoz**

Concentration on student success has affected community colleges in everything that they do. The Legislature has given money to colleges for SSSP, equity, AB 86, and even technology. Blackboard falls into the technology category. Discussion about replacing Blackboard with Canvas has been taking place all over the State, but it is imperative that colleges' academic senates play proactive roles in these discussions. Canvas will not cost anything to the colleges who adopt it for the first 4 years and potentially beyond, which could save the District almost \$250,000 per year. 24/7 support is automatically included. Canvas also has more built in features that are intuitive and easy to use than Blackboard including mobile compatibility for both student and instructor functions. It is cloud-based, so users can use it from anywhere in the world. The State would help with migrations from Blackboard to Canvas. It is not mandatory that colleges adopt Canvas, but community colleges are incentivized to do so.

- Some concern was raised that adoption of Canvas might automatically open the door for students to use the Exchange. It was clarified that although Canvas is required for schools who opt into the Exchange, there is no requirement that schools using Canvas also opt into the Exchange.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50am. The next regular meeting of the Grossmont College Academic Senate will be held on Monday, August 31, 2015 in Griffin Gate from 11:00am to 12:20pm.