
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District

Regular Meeting of the Career Technical Education Committee

Date: May 19, 2009 10:00 a.m.

Board of Trustees Office Conference Room

1370 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Procedural Matters

1. Call to Order

Chair Howald called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Trustee Jim Moreno, Trustee Walt Howald, Acting Chancellor Dr. Ding-Jo Currie, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor John M. Breihan, Coastline Community College Acting President Cheryl Babler, Golden West College Dean Omid Pourzanjani, Coastline College Dean Joumana McGowan, Orange Coast College CTE Director Corine Doughty, Townsend Public Affairs Consultant Sean Fitzgerald, and Secretary of the Board of Trustees Christian Teeter.

3. Public Comment

There were no requests from the Public to Address the Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of April 23, 2009

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of April 23, 2009.

It was moved by Mr. Moreno and seconded by Mr. Howald to approve the Minutes. The Committee approved the Minutes for meeting of April 23, 2009.

5. Career Technical Education Biennial Review

Mr. Breihan provided updates on the colleges' Career Technical Education programs. A review of the programs would also be on an upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting agenda.

Mr. Howald asked staff members to provide suggestions on how the Career Technical Education Committee can support the colleges and help to resolve any conflict that could arise in the administration of the programs throughout the District. Dr. Currie noted that the Career Technical Education Steering Committee had helped improve efficiency throughout the District.

On the biennial review, Mr. Moreno noted that the Committee could help staff if documents such as the review could be presented in advance. Mr. Moreno asked if an Executive

Summary could be provided in the future, which could explain to the Committee how it can inform the Board about various issues.

Mr. Howald distributed the document, "Why the Sun is Good For You" concerning Career Technical Education.

Mr. Howald talked about a consortia sponsored by the University of San Diego concerning energy issues, and encouraged staff to find out what the role of community colleges would be in that program.

Mr. Howald also emphasized the issue of talking points and executive summaries to be provided to the Committee by staff.

Mr. Breihan noted that the biennial review gave an overview of how the program is doing and focused on three specific areas- the labor market status, what the other colleges are doing in the area in CTE, and the number of certificates completed in the program. Mr. Breihan noted that this review is important for the Board to review and understand decisions that are being made by the colleges.

Mr. Howald noted that he would assume that the District classes on various programs are going to be under even more scrutiny as a result of budget challenges. He noted that if the District eliminates a program, there has to be justification. Mr. Breihan noted that terminating a program is not an easy process, but that the colleges are obligated to do so if the program performs poorly after one year.

Mr. Moreno noted that when recommendations come up for a program that has been marginal at best, that the recommendation is based on the merit or lack thereof, need, or the lack of jobs – it is not based on the economy. Ms. Doughty noted that Orange Coast College does not have an effective process in place in order to look at underperforming programs. She also noted that working with the faculty can be a challenge because of contractual obligations and other issues, making it difficult to look at underperforming programs. Ms. Doughty added that the college has one specific program that is clearly underperforming. Dr. Currie noted that the program should have a process to evaluate program vitality, and that she would be concerned if a college does not have a way to evaluate and terminate a program for poor performance. Dr. Babler described Coastline's process for evaluation and termination of programs, as necessary, and expressed confidence in the Coastline process.

Mr. Pourzanjani noted that the colleges could use the assistance of the Committee for input on how a program is retired or terminated. He noted that it was important for the Committee to be briefed about programs that are being changed, given that constituents could complain directly to the Trustees. Mr. Pourzanjani noted that the Board should be briefed on what is happening, so there are not unpleasant surprises. Mr. Moreno confirmed this and noted that entrenched constituencies could raise serious concerns when decisions are made by campuses to cut or change programs. Dr. Babler noted that engaging the faculty in the conversation from the beginning could provide more productive opportunities and could contribute to a reduction in tensions.

Mr. Howald noted that the Committee is trying to build the Board's confidence in the process that already exists. Not having a process to eliminate or change programs does not bode confidence. He noted that each college should have a process to address these issues. Mr. Howald added that this would help all understand their respective roles.

Mr. Howald noted that the perspective could be that some programs may never return given budget issues. Concerning faculty, Mr. Howald commented that there are two things that

arise: faculty don't do fundraising, and therefore, don't pursue it. Secondly, faculty members do not see themselves as popularity seekers: they don't need to seek out students or funding for programs. Mr. Howald noted that these circumstances are no longer accurate, and that faculty need a change in perspective. Mr. Howald indicated that faculty needs to understand that some programs are not coming back. Dr. Currie noted that in some cases, curricula needs updating. Involving the Academic Senate in these matters would also be very important, as well as the faculty unions, so all can be briefed and understood.

Ms. Doughty clarified that Orange Coast College does have a program review process, but the college does not have a process to restore program vitality. Dr. Currie noted that the administration should address this matter, given the Education Code requirements for program administration and rehabilitation. Mr. Howald confirmed the importance of legal requirements and accreditation details. Mr. Fitzgerald reaffirmed the importance of compliance, given the lobbying efforts made to politicians about community colleges' role in restoring the economy. Mr. Moreno also confirmed the importance of following the laws, and that faculty need to be advised about changes in the law, and also emphasized the importance of how students can be better prepared. Mr. Breihan noted that all of the reviews for Board consideration have involved the faculty.

Mr. Howald noted that he would like an update report on CTE in the Fall term. He wanted to make sure that the District's programs are healthy and surviving. Mr. Moreno suggested that a timeline be established for all of the reports, facilitating dialogue and the Committee's assistance and input on CTE issues. Mr. Howald emphasized that the Committee is an opportunity to provide help to all of the campuses, and that the Trustees want to help.

6. Review ARRA

Dr. Currie noted that there is an RFP out for approximately \$12 million for Orange County. She noted that two out of three colleges are going to go after the funding. Mr. Pourzanjani noted that there is about \$12 million for training and about \$2 million is part of the ARRA proposal. The government does not want to pay for equipment, and the colleges must place people in jobs, meaning that programs and courses have to be targeted that are ready to hire now. They also want the training to be done by June 2010. Mr. Pourzanjani noted that this RFP posed challenges for community colleges: they have to already have the facilities and equipment for the students in place. The colleges have to also pay the instructors, in addition to what is paid now, for this new program. He noted that private sector firms may have more flexibility with this. Mr. Pourzanjani noted that applications were focused on automotive and accounting areas. There is also a focus on energy auditors and assessors which are areas where job growth is taking place. Mr. Pourzanjani indicated that the uncertainty is whether or not jobs would be available for the people in these programs. Mr. Howald asked why health services are not part of this proposal: Mr. Pourzanjani noted that the Golden West program is for automotive technology.

Dr. McGowan noted that Coastline is applying for three grants: energy process technology, computer support specialists focusing on networking, and the third item is for bookkeeping (accounting) which is a growing field. She indicated she felt confident that the college can place those students. Mr. Howald affirmed that the colleges in general should be more confident in terms of being able to place students in programs.

Mr. Howald asked if the programs are coordinated between the three colleges such that there is no overlap. Staff indicated that there was not overlap. The second issue that Mr. Howald asked is if there is something or someone at the CTE level that he and Trustee Moreno could work with to improve capacity for programs that are currently impacted.

Mr. Moreno noted that when he was in community college, he had a friend in the nursing area. He noted that people would go through the programs, and there were probably five nursing schools in the downtown Los Angeles area. Mr. Moreno indicated that he wished to understand why nursing school numbers are working against the colleges given the current capacity. Dr. Babler noted that almost all educational systems are looking to increase capacity. Mr. Moreno noted that one issue that causes this situation of shortages is liability, and nursing ratios. Mr. Howald noted that given the large numbers of baby boomers retiring each year, it will impact many fields of nursing in terms of demand. Dr. Currie noted that the RFP for the stimulus funds would force community colleges to be more creative in how their programs are created and managed.

Mr. Howald noted the challenges in the commercial real estate market could help the District in finding additional capacity for facilities, adding that this could be done in conjunction with a local hospital provider. Dr. Currie noted that private hospitals have approached Coastline; there are opportunities, but also challenges that the colleges need to bridge. She noted that there should be some serious discussions. She wants to be able to overcome obstacles in order to support these kinds of programs. She commented on a 2007 Board of Trustees meeting in which faculty issues were addressed for respiratory therapy.

Dr. Currie noted that the District can address capacity issues together. Mr. Howald agreed, and asked if the Committee could get some financial figures from Vice Chancellor Brahmbhatt concerning project ideas and finances, and also, he suggested having Mr. Fitzgerald supporting the District on external funding issues. Mr. Howald noted that there could be medical facilities that are becoming available; they could be used for training sites, as opposed to opening a new building entirely. Dr. Currie indicated that these ideas could be discussed with the District's Steering Committee and then brought to the Career Technical Education Committee for further discussion. Mr. Moreno also wanted to see where there could be possible money.

7. Coastline CTE Program Update

Dr. McGowan provided an update to the Committee on CTE issues. She noted that the current situation provides a great opportunity for the programs, as well as opportunities to revamp and repackage the programs. She noted that there are 10 programs, plus two new ones. The college developed a five year plan; with each department developing its own developmental plan, over a five year period. As a result, the programs have been revamped.

Dr. McGowan described the Accounting program noting that there are 13 different classes, and three certificates. An Auditing Certificate is also being developed. The college looked at labor market information, and met regularly once per term with an advisory committee. They also put the faculty together, and came up with their own plan based on their understanding of the labor market.

In the business and management department, she noted that there are 24 different classes with 11 certificates. The most popular area is project management for that department. Another certificate is a Digital Records Certificate. She noted that this relates to President Obama's vision of making health records paperless.

Mr. Moreno asked if the college would consider press releases when they develop new and innovative curricula – and when they are approved, the public can continue to get information about the programs that the colleges are developing. Mr. Fitzgerald also suggested that the material could be listed in a newsletter. Dr. Currie noted that this is being done on a quarterly basis. Dr. Currie and Mr. Fitzgerald also discussed informing Workforce Investment Board members of these developments; Dr. Currie noted that the college also did this.

Dr. McGowan noted that one of the newest programs is the Energy Process Technology program. Coastline Community College was approached by Chevron to help train oil refinery operators, and that there is no program in California for this purpose. Dr. McGowan noted that the college partnered with Chevron, and received approval from the State over a six month period. Mr. Howald noted that the delay was not acceptable, and that he would speak to State Chancellor Dr. Jack Scott in an effort to have timelines for these approvals reduced, given the current state of the economy. Mr. Moreno suggested that the college consider partnership ideas with Southern California Edison as well.

Dr. McGowan provided descriptions of the college's real estate program, and its efforts to revamp the program, indicating it offers four certificates at this time.

Dr. McGowan described the college's Emergency Management Program, and that the teachers are certified by the Office of Homeland Security and FEMA to teach on the campus. Dr. McGowan noted that this was the only program in the State. Further discussion took place regarding a possible press release announcing the program.

Mr. Howald and Mr. Moreno advised staff that all of the CTE programs were exciting to the Board. They both indicated the importance of gaining more information about these programs so they can be discussed in local, statewide and national levels.

Dr. McGowan provided the Committee with additional information on Coastline's Career Technical Education program.

Mr. Moreno thanked Dr. McGowan for her energy in the presentation. He noted that what he felt was important was that the staff should take the energy back to their campuses.

8. Townsend Public Affairs CTE Update

Mr. Fitzgerald provided the Committee on a short update on legislation tied to Career Technical Education Committee. SB 599, Senator McCloud's bill, would allow for private post secondary institutions to gain a greater eligibility for WIB funding. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the private institutions could adapt and respond faster according to the author, but he noted that it was not the case. Mr. Fitzgerald suggested that the Board battle the assertion of the bill's language. Mr. Moreno asked if the District's supporters in the Assembly are aware of this. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the bill is currently going through the navigation process of the legislature. Mr. Howald suggested that the Board could voice an opposition, and a letter would be drafted, concerning the impact of the community college engine of growth. Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned AB 492, concerning faculty for nursing programs; AB 1215 expands the number of hours to be considered – nurses do not wish to be full time faculty. These two bills would increase flexibility in terms of hiring faculty; AB 492 would raise the threshold under which full time faculty could be categorized. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that all of the bills are in preliminary stages during a two year budget process. Mr. Fitzgerald noted SB 410; he asked for feedback; focused on making a priority for ARRA funds going to WIB, increasing training, and focusing on trainings/internships. He noted that the bill has passed committee and is being held for appropriations, adding that the bill provides for many things that are already being practiced.

9. Set Future Meeting Dates

The Committee set the next meeting at July 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Moreno and seconded by Mr. Howald that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Howald adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.