



MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, June 18, 2008

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mt. San Antonio College was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. Trustees Baca, Bader, Chen Haggerty, Chyr, Hall and Student Trustee Jamison were present.

STAFF PRESENT

John S. Nixon, President; Jack Miyamoto, Interim Vice President, Human Resources; Virginia Burley, Interim Vice President, Instruction

1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

None.

2. COLLEGE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

In anticipation of putting an item on the July Board agenda for approval of a bond measure on the November ballot, Dr. Nixon asked the Board to engage in a discussion focused on two areas:

- A list of projects to be included in the bond measure.
- The “messaging” of the campaign.

Dr. Nixon said he was very pleased to report that the Associated Students have voted to support the proposed bond measure and authorized a donation of \$150,000 to the bond campaign. The Faculty Association and Academic Senate leadership have also voted to support a bond measure. Dr. Nixon said he is still in discussions with the classified unions and senate to garner their support.

According to Dr. Nixon, even though we haven't officially begun a bond campaign, the College has received tentative monetary commitments in the amount of \$300,000. That includes \$150,000 from the students, \$100,000 from the Foundation, and \$50,000 from Auxiliary Services.

Mr. Gary Nellesen, Director, Facilities Planning & Management, distributed a listing of the projects to complete the 2008 Master Plan. Mr. Nellesen reviewed each of the proposed projects individually.

Trustee Chyr asked about the impact on the Wildlife Sanctuary if changes are made to the Grand/Temple intersection. Dr. Nixon said the College has decided not to have a road exit from Grand south of the Wildlife Sanctuary because biology faculty feel that surrounding the Sanctuary with roads would destroy it. As a result, the College has begun working with the City of Walnut on a project that now includes giving up some property from both sides of Temple and Grand. The College will then expand the Wildlife Sanctuary into the area that is the old road south of the Sanctuary. Dr. Nixon said he has begun laying the groundwork with the City of Industry to provide financial assistance in expanding and relocating a portion of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Trustee Hall, and other trustees, voiced concern that the idea of a parking structure might not be well received by the voters. He doesn't want voters to be upset about a specific project and, as a result, not vote to support the bond measure as a whole. He asked if the College had conducted focus group meetings to test the viability of the project. Dr. Nixon stated that he would pursue polling information on those projects with the consultants.

Student Trustee Jamison said students face a real dilemma with parking at the college. There isn't sufficient public transportation for students to use and many students travel quite a distance to attend Mt. SAC. Also, many students come from their jobs to class. As a result, students don't have an option available to them other than driving to campus. Mr. Nellesen said that a parking structure would not make finding a parking spot easier, but it would help keep up with the College's projected growth.

Mr. Nellesen commented briefly on the amount of teaching space available on campus. With all the new construction and renovation, teaching space will grow less than 2%, while enrollment has grown 13-15%. The College has done a lot of renovation of classroom space and re-sizing old classrooms, but student growth is being housed in trailers. Trustee Chyr asked about the College's distance learning program and its impact on the number of students on campus. Dr. Nixon said that while the distance learning program is growing in numbers, the number of students on campus is also growing. Dr. Burley added that the student retention rate for distance learning courses is far less than on-campus classes.

Mr. Clarence Brown, Director of Marketing and Communication, shared the college's messaging strategy with the Board. Since the Board hasn't voted to go out for a bond, the college is informing its communities about the mission of the college and its accomplishments, and about its urgent need for upgrading, repairs, replacements, and finishing the great work started with Measure R.

Trustee Hall said one of the things the college does best is re-educate and re-train people – especially during these difficult economic times when many are losing their jobs and need to return to college to learn another field. He thinks it would benefit the college to push this message in some of its mailers – show the older student returning to school. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea.

3. ANNUAL BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

President Nixon distributed a compilation of survey responses from Board Members to questions regarding the Board's areas of strengths, and those areas they thought needed improvement. Dr. Baca suggested that this item be included on the July Board agenda for discussion, which would allow Board members time to thoroughly review the document.

Board members also briefly discussed the recommendations from the Accreditation Site Visit in 2004. One recommendation related specifically to members of the Board and training/development. Dr. Nixon was asked to provide a copy of those recommendations to the Board.

As we begin to lay the groundwork for the next accreditation visit, Dr. Nixon said it was his intention to have Barbara Beno, President of the Accrediting Commission, or one of the Vice Presidents of the Commission, speak to the Board and college constituencies.

4. REVIEW OF BOARD CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE (Administrative Procedure 2715)

Dr. Nixon said both the Accrediting Commission and the Community College League of California have indicated that it is good practice for the Board to review its Code of Ethics statement regularly. It was the consensus of the Board that the current Board Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice needs no revision.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

JSN:dc