



WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees
9900 Cody Street
Coalinga, CA 93210
(559) 934-2100

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

September 25, 2007



CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION

President McKean called the study session of the Board of Trustees to order at 1:10 p.m. and led the Board of Trustees and audience in the flag salute.

Board members present:

Mark McKean, President
Bill Henry, Vice President
Nina Oxborrow, Clerk
Jeff Levinson
Edna Ivans
Jack Minnite
Steve Cantu
Robert Wallace, Student Trustee

Administrators present:

Frank Gornick, Chancellor
Ken Stoppenbrink, Vice Chancellor of Business Services
Willard Lewallen, President, West Hills College Coalinga
Don Warkentin, President, West Hills College Lemoore
Susan Kincade, Dean of Learning Resources and Web Services
Jill Stearns, Dean of Student Learning, West Hills College Coalinga
Carlos Diniz, Dean of Student Learning, West Hills College Coalinga
Jose Lopez, Dean of Student Services, West Hills College Lemoore
Marlon Hall, Associate Dean of Educational Services, West Hills College Lemoore
Marcel Hetu, Director of North District Center, Firebaugh
Jana Cox, Interim Director of Human Resources
Pedro Avila, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning/Accreditation Liaison
Barbara Caganich, Executive Director of West Hills College Foundation
Frances Squire, Director of Marketing

Introduction of Guests

There were no guests introduced at this time.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

STUDY SESSION

School Facilities Improvement Districts (SFIDs) – Dr. Frank Gornick stated that at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, members requested additional information relating to the election results for past bond measures. Mr. Ken Stoppenbrink provided a presentation on School Facilities Improvement Districts (SFIDs) and an analysis of the election results. Discussion took place regarding voter turnout, votes by city, and assessed valuation. Dr. Gornick commented on the various scenarios for the SFIDs and how the communities could be paired or broken out to be most advantageous. He summarized the discussion, stating that he understands the Board of Trustees wants more information on defining the boundaries and the assessed valuation.

Trustee Oxborrow questioned the number one objective and Dr. Gornick responded that we have facilities needs that we need to continue to address. The approach of one bond for everyone doesn't work for us. The proposal is to try a SFID to see if that will work for us. This is an approach to define projects and get the best possible return. Trustee Oxborrow questioned if we have data on the College of the Sequoias bond and how they did it. Dr. Gornick responded that they used Proposition 39 and passed their bond on the first time out.

Dr. Gornick stated that he will continue to pursue voter sentiment in the proposed SFIDs and refine the dollar amount. He stated that we have a big gap – almost 20% – that we have to close in Coalinga and we need to get some kind of an indication of how people would vote. Dr. Willard Lewallen stated that he is anxious to begin the dialogue in the community and determine the projects. Trustee Oxborrow questioned if we will conduct a voter survey. Dr. Gornick responded in the affirmative. Trustee Oxborrow stated that the Board should have some input into the questions that are asked. Dr. Gornick stated that we want to find out if a SFID is appealing to the communities. President McKean questioned if we should consider three scenarios and the projects that might come under them. Dr. Gornick commented on facilities and a wish list, stating that this needs to be developed by each college.

Dr. Gornick stated that he will provide a questionnaire for the Board's review at a later date. He will look at facilities districts that are aligned more to a Coalinga, Lemoore and Firebaugh geographic and that will run along the high school boundaries.

Student Learning Outcomes Update – Mr. Don Warkentin reported that the accreditation process is all about Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). We are in the sixth year of a ten year process for colleges to develop their SLOs. SLOs have to be identified so that the assessment process can begin. This will allow us to have data to

write about in the self study. Mr. Warkentin reported that in March 2006 West Hills College Lemoore had about 17% of SLOs developed for courses. At this time they are at 54% complete. Mr. Warkentin stated that they all need to be developed by December of this year. He has told the faculty that they have to be done. The faculty need to be motivated and the Deans are being held accountable for the faculty's completion of SLOs.

Trustee Levinson questioned if the faculty are held responsible for the SLOs. Discussion took place regarding what students should have learned when they leave West Hills College Lemoore. Trustee Henry questioned outcomes and assessment and what is considered to be success on the assessment. Mr. Warkentin responded that we would like for students to have a grade of C or better. Trustee Levinson stated that one of the SLOs could be our ability for transferability. Dr. Gornick commented that the colleges will be providing to the Board of Trustees the areas that have completed the assessment and the areas they have chosen to work on. The extent is that we will begin to publish the results of our efforts. We want to give more information to the general public about how students can be successful in college. Trustee Levinson stated that it is a yardstick of how the community college is doing. Dr. Gornick stated that this idea is the impetus of the Spellings Commission. There are a lot of dollars tied up with higher education and there is an accountability factor. The whole intent is to hold community colleges to a more accountable model. Trustee Oxborrow questioned where the SLOs can be found and Mr. Warkentin responded that they will most likely be listed in the class syllabus.

Dr. Lewallen reported on SLOs for West Hills College Coalinga, stating that his college has completed 60%. He discussed SLOs at the program level, stating that just completing courses alone is not enough. Some colleges are already giving students a standard assessment to test the general education knowledge. This would measure students against a standard and this is nothing new for vocational programs. Dr. Lewallen stated that, from his own standpoint, he gets a little worried because this goes in the direction of program review. He stated that we sometimes lose sight of the purposes for doing this and we need to address how we are going to use the results to make improvements. This becomes an exercise in futility if we don't use the information to make things better. Trustee Oxborrow questioned if Dr. Lewallen is having the same difficulty as Lemoore in getting the SLOs completed. He responded in the affirmative, stating that it can seem to be an overwhelming process, but is actually much simpler.

Dr. Gornick commented that the Presidents are committed to the program review process not becoming a doorstop. They want the information to be used at the colleges. Dr. Lewallen stated that faculty invest a lot of time in the process and are disappointed when the information sits on a shelf. He stated that he is confident that the information will be used.

Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) - Mr. Pedro Avila provided a presentation on 2006-2007 Performance Indicators Update.

Trustee Cantu arrived during Mr. Avila's presentation.

With regard to the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, Mr. Avila stated that only 525 community colleges participated in the nationwide survey. He summarized the scores for the district, stating that we did really well. He also commented that we have been selected to be a part of the CCSSE publication.

Trustee Minnite arrived at this time.

Strategic Planning Goals Update - Mr. Avila provided a brief update on the district's strategic planning goals.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the study session as adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Nina Oxborrow
Clerk of the Board of Trustees

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