

**Classified Employees Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 28, 2008

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Washington Street Campus, Private Dining Room 106

**Members Present:** Holly Hicks, Lissa Merchant, Felicity Swann, Mike Jager, Corey Willis, Catfish Evans, Suzette Overstreet, Tina Maloney, David Snelson, Paula Garrison, Gina Garrett

**Members Absent:** Connie deJesus

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Holly Hicks.

**Presidents Report:** provided by Dr. Matney.

Dr. Jones will continue cancer treatment in Amarillo. It is difficult for him to get up to campus, but he appreciates our prayers.

It's been a busy and challenging summer. We're excited about the Ground Breaking for the new science lab on the Washington campus. This fall, there will be another ground breaking on the west campus for a nursing/dental building.

By census date, which is September 10<sup>th</sup>, we should have the same number of students as last year. We hope to continue in the 10,000's. We are enrollment driven. Nursing admissions are up, 35% increase.

The Board of Regents approved the 2008/2009 Budget of \$49,430,850. There will be a pay increase for Board Appointed employees of 2% on 9/1/2008 for those employees who started on or before 6/1/2008 and another 2% on 3/1/2009 for those employees who started on or before 12/1/2008, for Non-Appointed employees the pay increase will be 4% on 9/1/2008 for those employees who started on or before 6/1/2008. That's good. Dr. Matney believes it's important to reward employees. He stated he's in his 30<sup>th</sup> year at Amarillo College, and the classified employees are good people working hard to help students.

There is an aggressive campaign to find a top quality person to become the director of e-Learning, which will be housed in the new Center for Teaching and Learning, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library.

Dr. Matney described the importance of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). If we did not have accreditation, our courses could not transfer to another accredited school, and we would lose all our federal grants. SACS is used to maintain quality and integrity.

Dr. Matney recommended everyone read, "All Over but the Shoutin'" by Rick Bragg. He considers this story to portray the triumph of the human spirit. This book is Amarillo College's "Common Reader". He stated that Mr. Bragg will be coming to AC on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Krystal Calderon, a radiography student, met Dr. Matney at the graduation ceremonies. Five times she did not complete the admission's process until finally deciding to become a student at Amarillo College. He was inspired by her story and invited her to speak to over 200 faculty. Her personal story was so moving, she received a standing ovation. Ms. Calderon has 4 children and 1 stepson.

**Topic** Introduction of new member

**Information/Discussion**

Due to Manuel Luera leaving Amarillo College, Gina Garrett was welcomed as the newest member of the Classified Employees Council. Paula Garrison will be leaving Amarillo College to move to San Angelo. Another election will be held to fill this vacancy.

**Topic** Sign-up sheets

**Information/Discussion**

Holly asked for volunteers to attend Board of Regents' meetings and organize quarterly pinning ceremonies. In addition, we passed around a sign-up sheet if anyone was interested in ordering/purchasing a committee shirt.

**Topic** 2008-09 CEC Meeting dates

**Information/Discussion**

Holly provided a list of the scheduled meetings through August 2009. Meetings will typically be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the Private Dining Room at 2 pm.

**Topic** Board of Regents Meetings for the month of August

**Information/Discussion**

Presented by Holly Hicks

"Meeting was called to order by Michele Fortunato, and she welcomed everyone to the meeting. Michele also asked if anyone had public comments. The invocation was given, and June's minutes were approved.

Justin Lawless gave the Student Government Association report. The Distinguished Lecturer will possibly be John Walsh, host of America's Most Wanted; they will possibly have it on November 3rd. He also mentioned about the hip hop comedy act of Alfred and Seymour coming to Amarillo College. The Fallfest theme this year is the 80's. SGA will also be doing the same as they did last for 9-11.

Linda Pitner from KACV talked about the funding request from Amarillo Area Foundation KACV Endowment. They will be using the funds to purchase three TV channels. Two of them will be standard channels. The third one is going to be a Spanish channel called V-Me. V-Me means "look at me" in Spanish. It will be like the PBS channel, just in Spanish. V-Me will be a high definition channel. Also, a Texas C-Span has been approved.

Terry Berg talked about the Investment Report, and the budget carried. He also talked about the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. Terry mentioned about the reserves from the technology fee that we instituted in fall 2008. If the Board approves the fiscal year budget, salaries will increase 1.5 million dollars. The Board approved the budget. Board of Regents approved the tax rate for 2008. Consent Agenda was also approved.

Dr. Laura Grandgenett talked to the Board about the purchases of new computers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This is part of phase one of the Replacement Task Force and also sections three of the Strategic Tactical Plan. The Board approved the purchases.

Then, the Board approved the financials from the financial report given by Terry Berg.

Dr. Paul Matney gave the President's Report. He mentioned about the ground breaking for the new science building. The additional parking lot to the east of the campus will be done by the beginning of school. Enrollment is about like last year, but we are still enrolling Dual Credit students. CIO search is about to begin. Terry Berg and Bob Austin will be co-chairing the search. We are also looking for a new Director of E-Learning. Hereford Campus had a SACS visit last week. It went well. AC is doing the Common Reader this summer. "It's All Over, But the Shoutin'" by Rick Bragg is the Common Reader book for this summer. Rick will be here on October 7th. Nursing faculty is up from last year.

The Regents report was given. Carol Forrester mentioned about the Police Academy Graduation this Friday at 6 p.m. Then, meeting was adjourned."

In addition, there were special board meetings about the tax rate increase for housing. Both Mike Jager and Lissa Merchant attended these meetings. The public did not show up to comment; therefore, the tax rate increase was passed by the Board.

**Topic** Approval of Minutes  
**Information/Discussion**

CEC Minutes from June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**Topic** Ask It Basket  
**Information/Discussion**

Mike's submission concerning the college policy of driving a college vehicle while talking on a cell phone was discussed. No true solution was given. Maybe this needs to be addressed at a higher level? Possibly legal? There was further discussion concerning the ban of using cell phones while driving in school zones in other cities. Tina Maloney suggested the insurance policy should be investigated before deciding whether to continue to pursue this question. Mike will talk to Tania Howard about the insurance policy for college vehicles. What would be the college's liability if someone talking on a cell phone is in an accident?

Manuel Luera's request to stop the volume of paper that is sent to employee mailboxes was not able to be answered. Holly is continuing to check with HR concerning this. The committee did agree that it is important for everyone to get all information. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

David Snelson inquired about the use of social security numbers on campus documents. Many people are concerned about identity theft. Some supervisors refuse to use the college assigned i.d. numbers. Holly will check with HR.

Suzette Overstreet was curious about the retirement Rule of 80, meaning the number of hours you have worked at Amarillo College plus your age=80. Has it changed? Suzette will check with Brenda Bussey in HR.

**Topic** Classified Employee Email

**Information/Discussion**

Holly is still working on this. More information will be sent the first week of September.

**Topic** ACCEA—How can the CEC help?

**Information/Discussion**

ACCEA previously held fundraisers for scholarships. Should CEC host luncheons that were previously hosted by ACCEA? It was decided to wait and see if anyone notices the missing ACCEA activities/events during the Fall/Spring semesters.

**Topic** SECC (State Employees Charitable Campaign) Chili Cook-off

**Information/Discussion**

Holly has checked with David White, AskAC Information Support Assistant. It will be held on the Washington campus. Holly will bring details to the next meeting. Would we want to enter?

**Topic** Miscellaneous/Open Discussion

**Information/Discussion**

No further issues discussed.

Adjourned

3:51 p.m.

Next meeting September 25, 2008