

Classified Employees Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 2007

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Washington Street Campus, Private Dining Room

Members Present: Gala Carpenter, Connie deJesus, Catfish Evans, Paula Garrison, Tonja Hester, Holly Hicks, Cheryl Howard, Mike Jager, Lissa Merchant, Chere Whitfield, Corey Willis

Members Absent: Donna Pergrem

Called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chere Whitfield.

Topic Dr. Jones Joins the Council

Discussion/Information Dr. Jones spoke on Governor Perry's veto. He will continue to give us updates.

Topic June Board of Regents Overview

Discussion/Information Lissa gave the following report.

Education Report:

Kay Mooney and Terry Berg discussed the student loan program. They reported on how bad debt, which is due to the non-payment of student loans, impacts Amarillo College. The 90 Day Aging Report shows that at this time we currently have \$700,000 in bad debt due to non-payment. After 90 days the bad debt is turned over to a collection agency. The default percentage rate on student's loans is currently at 1.5% and the collection rate is at 18%. The federal government will be raising student loan amounts starting in Fall 2007 to \$3500 for the first year and \$5500 for the second year due to cost of living increases such as gas and housing.

KACV/TV – Digital Equipment:

Joyce Herring presented the information on the continued upgrading of KACV/TV. We are converting from analog to digital and the cost of this upgrade is significant. The cost of the project is \$5.5 million dollars and at this time all funds have been raised for this project. No operating funds will have to be used for the upgrade. The Board of Regents thanked Joyce for all her hard work and congratulated her on her new job with the PBS Broadcasting Corporation.

Selection of Bank Depository:

Terry Berg indicated that Amarillo College has selected Amarillo National Bank as its bank depository for the next biennium September 1, 2007 thru August 31, 2009. It was the low cost provider due to lower fees in most areas (credit cards, Internet/on-line banking, ATM fees, etc). Amarillo National was chosen over Citigroup and Wells Fargo.

President's Report:

Dr. Jones discussed the budget short fall due to Governor Perry's veto that affects 50 Texas community college budgets. The cost to Amarillo College's total budget for the 2008/2009 budget year is 8%.

1) Dr. Jones said that of the 50 Texas community colleges affected by the budget short fall - 60% of the community colleges have a majority of part time faculty and the other 40% have a majority of full time faculty (AC is included in this group).

Note: Having a majority of full time faculty on staff increases the costs to these community colleges because of healthcare benefits, vacation/sick leave, retirement plans, etc.

2) Overall the fiscal impact of the vetoed funding will impact the smaller community colleges to a much greater degree in comparison to the larger community colleges.

Dr. Jones asked the Board of Regents to adopt a resolution that will be sent to Governor Perry regarding the budget cuts and the impact it will have on Amarillo College and the surrounding communities. They will also address the fraudulent budgets that Governor Perry accused the community colleges of submitting to the legislature. He also proposed that a letter be signed by himself and the Board Chair to be sent to the Governor regarding these same issues. Dr. Jones suggested that the employees of Amarillo College write letters to Governor Perry and then send copies of these letters to our area legislators. He also encourages everyone to get their family and friends involved in the letter writing campaign. He's hoping that the citizens of Amarillo will also send letters to Governor Perry and voice their opinions regarding the impact it will have on the community. Dr. Jones said that all our voices need to be counted and that we are on record as opposing the budget cuts to our community colleges. He asked that we do not use the AC logo, letterhead, or e-mail when preparing our letter(s).

Dr. Jones stated that on July 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., there will be a meeting to go over the assessment study of Amarillo College's upgrading of its physical facilities. Approximately three weeks later there should be a finalized report regarding this issue.

Ad Hoc – Athletic Committee Report:

Frank Nelson reported on the Ad Hoc Athletic Committee Report regarding adding athletic programs to Amarillo College. These programs would be a men's baseball and women's volleyball team. At this time the report has not been completed.

Topic New CEC Member

Information/Discussion Chere welcomed Catfish Evans to the Council. He is replacing Anthony Ramos.

Topic Approval of Minutes

Information/Discussion April and May minutes were approved.

Topic Handouts

Information/Discussion Chere handed out the Board of Regents, Pinning Ceremony, and CEC meeting schedules. She also handed out an updated list of the CEC members for 2007-08.

Topic Outstanding Administrator Award Committee

Information/Discussion Lissa will serve on the Outstanding Administrator Award Committee.

Topic Election of CEC Officers

Information/Discussion The officers for 2007-08 will be Chair - Gala Carpenter, Vice Chair – Holly Hicks, and Secretary – Donna Pergrem. Chere explained the duties of the Chair.

Topic Miscellaneous

Information/Discussion Chere will serve on the Classified Development Committee.

Members wanting a t-shirt and a name tag will need to turn their orders into Holly.

The new members were asked why they were interested in serving on the CEC. Their responses were they wanted to be involved and make a contribution.

There was discussion about adding a Historian to the CEC officers and what the procedure would be to do so.

We talked about ways we could raise money for CEC pinnings and other CEC events. We would also like to purchase a tape recorder and/or digital camera.

A comment was made about putting the members' picture on the CEC webpage.

Adjournment 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting There is no meeting scheduled for July. The next meeting will be August 23, 2007.