

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FEATHER RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

President Elliott called the regular meeting of the Feather River Community College District Board of Trustees to order at 3:07 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at Feather River College, Science Room 104, 570 Golden Eagle Avenue, Quincy, California.

Trustees present: Elliott, Schramel, Sheehan, West
Trustees absent: Shamberger, Student Trustee Camp

The agenda for the March 18, 2010 meeting at Feather River College, Science Room 104, 570 Golden Eagle Avenue, Quincy, California was approved as presented, (Schramel/Sheehan) unanimous.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2010 at Feather River College, Science Room 104, 570 Golden Eagle Avenue, Quincy, California were approved as presented, (Sheehan/Schramel) unanimous.

A. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Personnel Requisitions, Personnel Actions, Payroll and Commercial Warrants, Budget Transfers, and Budget Augmentations and Reductions were approved as presented, (West /Schramel) unanimous.

C. REGULAR AGENDA

*** 1. Motion Items**

a) Ron Taylor, Superintendent/President, in the absence of Michael Bagley, Chief Instructional Officer, requested Approval of New and Revised Courses. He stated that the request included several revisions to Health and Exercise Studies (HES) courses and Environmental Studies courses and new items in Early Childhood Education and Environmental Studies Science Lab. Dr. Taylor also stated that the request also included material in the HES Program and Certificate Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's). President Elliott requested information on whether or not the HES classes would be associated with classes that would be taught at Feather River Fitness and Recreation and Dr. Taylor replied that it was his understanding that these were separate courses in the HES Program. Merle Trueblood, Director of Athletic Operations and Events, agreed with Dr. Taylor, stating that the courses were conversions from Physical Education (PE) courses to the new

HES degree. Trustee Sheehan stated that the request indicated that there were also a number of business courses that were being retired and he requested additional information on these retirements if it was available. Jodi Beynon, Classified Senate President, reported that the classes that were being retired are courses that have not been taught in many years and that Mike Welsler, Business Instructor, felt that class retirement was the appropriate action. After further discussion and there being no objection, the request for Approval of New and Revised Courses was approved as presented, (Sheehan/West) unanimous.

b) Ron Taylor requested Consideration of Loan to Feather River College Foundation. Dr. Taylor stated that approval of the request would provide him with general instructions to develop a loan proposal in concert with the Feather River College Foundation. Dr. Taylor also stated that as has already been reported, a number of the roofs on the structures of the residence halls are failing or are partially failing and that these conditions are impacting student living space as a result of water permeating the walls and damaging the structures. He also reported that he is aware that the Foundation did explore the possibility of obtaining a federal low-interest loan through the Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program and that this option was not feasible due to the number of bond holders that would have had to agree to the additional debt. Dr. Taylor also reported that the Foundation had additionally made the effort to obtain financing through a private bank and this was also determined not to be a viable option. Trustee Sheehan stated that he would recommend approval of the request with the modification that the purpose of the loan be expanded to cover more than ancillary expenses and include repair of other damages found to be necessary. There was additional discussion regarding the extent of the damage and Trustee West expressed a concern regarding whether or not \$350,000 would be a sufficient amount to repair the roofs and associated damages. Trustee Sheehan responded that two bids that had been obtained for the work were within the \$350,000 amount. After further discussion, Trustee West stated that she wanted assurance that arrangements for repayment of the loan would be part of the loan proposal and Dr. Taylor stated that the Foundation is currently in the process of reworking their budget and that he is aware that they have placed a \$45,000 annual allocation amount in the budget for loan repayment purposes. After further discussion and there being no objection, the request for Consideration of Loan to Feather River College Foundation was approved as presented, (Sheehan/Schramel) unanimous.

*** 2. Roll Call Items**

None

3. Special Items/Reports

a) Jim Scoubes, Chief Financial Officer, presented the District's Monthly Financial Status Report as of February 28, 2010. He provided those present with information from the Unrestricted General Fund Summary noting that expenditures amount to \$7,529,789 or sixty percent of the total budget and that this number was seven percent lower than the prior year. He also reported that due to increased revenues received

by the State of California previously approved apportionment deferrals scheduled for the month of March would not be implemented. Mr. Scoubes also stated that he would include in next month's report a summary of the impacts that the anticipated apportionment deferrals of approximately \$630,000 will have on the District.

- b) Nick Boyd, Director of Facilities, provided those present with an update on the status of the Learning Resource Center Construction Project. He reported that the master construction schedule had recently been updated and that the anticipated completion date has been pushed back to January 13, 2011 due to weather delays. He also reported that the sub-contractor that is supplying the structural steel for the project has filed for bankruptcy, but that ninety-eight percent of the steel has already been delivered to the site. Mr. Boyd additionally reported that overall this situation is the concern of Randy Hill Construction but may have a future impact on the scheduling and continuity of the project. Mr. Boyd additionally reported that the District is experiencing claims from one of the contractors regarding what they describe as work above and beyond contract parameters and that the District has aggressively responded to those claims in consultation with legal counsel and the architects who authored the contract. Mr. Boyd also provided those present with a whiteboard diagram of the construction site and noted that the soils engineer had previously authorized work at the base of the cut slope near the Eagle's Perch or student center and that rising ground water levels in the monitor well indicate that the pressure on the hillside is at a level where the issue needs to be addressed. He further explained that to maintain the safety of the construction site, the slope will be cut down to decrease the pressure to a level recommended by the soils engineers and will require the relocation of a main water line and the removal of one tree.

- c) Ron Taylor, in the absence of Michael Bagley, provided those present with an update on accreditation. He stated that when future updates on accreditation are provided to the Board, the reports will include information on where the institution is on particular recommendations and the steps that are being taken to address them. Dr. Taylor also reported that currently staff is working on a revision of the accreditation work plan and that the plan will have in it action steps on each on the recommendations that are pending. Dr. Taylor also distributed a handout from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) that provided information on the importance of engaging governing boards in the accreditation process. There was review and discussion of the information contained on page three of the handout pertaining to the importance and need to establish an ongoing orientation or accreditation education program for board members, and Dr. Taylor noted that to a certain degree this was accomplished in the context of the board retreat that was held the previous summer and during the fall of 2009 when Dr. Bagley presented a summary of the four standards that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) applies to the institution. Trustee Sheehan addressed an area of page four of the handout that indicated that boards should be

familiarized with the standards of accrediting organizations that apply to board governance and actions that may be required to address them and he stated that this is an area he would like to do more on as he has previously been critical of accreditation reports and how they evaluated the college's progress on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Dr. Taylor noted that perhaps one or two board members could participate as part of the team that addresses one of the standards as the self study teams begin to take form and complete the work necessary to prepare for the next full accreditation evaluation and visit in 2012. Trustee Sheehan also stated that the last two Board of Trustee meetings indicate that as a group there needs to be a better understanding of the relationship between strategic planning and budgeting and how this fits into the accreditation standards and he requested that this information be addressed in future reports to the Board.

4. Communications, Presentations, and Reports

a) Trustee Reports

No Report

b) Associated Students

No Report.

c) Academic Senate

Chris Connell, Academic Senate President, reported that several students are currently attending and competing in the regional SIFE competition and that they hope to perform well and move on to the national level in May. He also reported that faculty is working with Lisa Kelly, Interim Associate Dean of Student Services, to develop information for strategic enrollment management in order to facilitate institutional planning, academic programs, and concentrate on enrollment, etc. Dr. Connell also stated that a small committee of both faculty and classified staff members are working on developing a new mission and vision statement and that they have had several meetings to date and additional work is scheduled for the week of March 22, 2010.

d) Classified Senate

Jodi Beynon stated that classified staff frequently hear from students regarding their concerns and that one of the issues that has been escalating recently is information on the conditions of the apartments. She also stated that she is pleased to see the Board of Trustees address the issue and take action to direct Dr. Taylor to negotiate a loan to repair the roofs at the facility. Ms. Beynon also reported that classified staff is currently involved in administrator evaluations and revisions to the college catalog.

e) Instruction

No Report

f) Student Services

Lisa Kelly reported that Student Services is currently collaborating with Edie O'Conner from the Plumas County Health Department to develop a peer

crisis counseling class that will include an evening lab opportunity in the DSP&S area of campus. She also reported that the Diversity Committee is sponsoring a Chautauqua on March 22, 2010 where participants will assume the identities of notable people of diversity throughout history. She also reported that she recently attended an advising retreat where good information was exchanged and issues of concern were addressed. Dr. Kelly additionally reported that Banner training is ongoing and that Feather River College student Lindsay Cuccia was the recent recipient of a \$500.00 Soroptimist scholarship making her eligible for possible additional scholarship funding in the future. In closing comments, Dr. Kelly additionally reported that she is working with Amy Schulz, SIFE Advisor and associate faculty staff member to assess the county managers' training needs and that they had provided a presentation and needs assessment survey that will assist in the evaluation process. She also reported that longboards ski racing will take place at the Johnsville Ski Hill on Sunday, March 21, 2010 and that FRC staff member, Saylor Flett, took first place in last month's competition and that student, Dana Ludington, placed first in the women's competition. Dr. Kelly also introduced Bruce Baldwin, Director of Marketing and Outreach, who she reported has been working on the catalog, Day in the Mountains, and additionally worked with Amy Schulz to select the speaker for the recent Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

g) Superintendent/President

Ron Taylor reported that he was pleased to return to Quincy after attending a comprehensive accreditation visit to Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria California as well as the Northern California CEO Conference in Yosemite. Dr. Taylor addressed the campus report and the Feather River College biology student, Ehren Bentz, who has been accepted to a summer research program involving the study of snakes. He also reported that the front page of this week's edition of the Feather River Bulletin is featuring Feather River College Equine Studies alumni, Richard and Jeannette McGrath, who are riding their horses across the United States to raise funds to start a healing ranch. Dr. Taylor also stated that there were two intense Board meetings related to budget issues and he indicated that he is eager to begin the collaborative work that was discussed and mapped out between all of the bargaining units at the last special Board meeting. He also reported that he understands that good progress was made at the recent March 12, 2010 Budget Committee meeting in identifying additional cost-savings in several areas. President Elliott requested information from Dr. Taylor on whether or not these negotiations would be completed by the May 2010 Board of Trustees meeting and Dr. Taylor replied that they would because the tentative budget information needed will be based on this work.

Dr. Taylor also reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is at the final stages of the development of a new draft Strategic Plan for the college that will be going out to the campus community soon. He also stated along with administrator evaluations, campus recruitments are in progress for the Institutional Researcher position and the Director of Human Resources.

Dr. Taylor additionally reported that with regards to what he learned at the Northern California CEO Conference there was a strong confirmation coming from the Chancellor that he expects the various State entities that pay

attention to what community colleges do to be looking at how institutions prioritize their course offerings. He elaborated by explaining that as classes were cut to adjust down the workload by 3.4 percent these entities will be watching in various ways what shows up in class schedules online to evaluate and judge the types of classes offered. Dr. Taylor additionally reported that the Chancellor also expressed that in terms of advocacy, community colleges have a small window of opportunity with regards to Governor Schwarzenegger as it is his last year of governorship. He also stated that one of the most intense discussions at the conference related to the budget crisis and the limited resources facing the system and it was discussed that community colleges are good at access but not necessarily good at success in terms of students achieving their associate degree or transferring. There was further discussion regarding this issue, and Dr. Taylor stated that there is a sense that in order to meet the call in the American Graduation Initiative of another five million college graduates by the year 2020 the State of California, including community colleges, needs to ramp up its graduation rate by 5.7 percent annually. He also reported that another intense discussion involved the nature of the community college relationship with the CSU transfer plan and how convoluted and unpredictable the transfer pathway for students currently is. He also mentioned that the CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the national organization representing community colleges, made a rare appearance at the conference to talk about the national situation in terms of legislation that might help community colleges and address issues affecting them.

Dr. Taylor also noted that he had also received a communiqué from the system office requesting that the institution work on its own internal investigation on whether or not it is following best practices with regards to verifying residency for out-of-state students versus state residents as it has a fiscal impact for the college and the state.

Dr. Taylor notified the trustees that Disaster Preparedness Training previously scheduled for April 23, 2010 at Butte Community College has been canceled. He also stated that listings of candidates for the statewide CCCT Board of Directors had been provided to the trustees and that from the ten candidates seven seats would be selected. Dr. Taylor also stated that unless otherwise directed, he would select candidates that would emphasize the issues affecting small rural community colleges.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

RT/ch