

Report of Board of Trustees Capital Construction Committee Meeting
Wednesday 9/21/2011 @ District Office Board Room

The Committee meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM, nearly 40 minutes after the scheduled start-time.

John Walsh of the Hollywood-Highlands.org group was the only public speaker. He accused the mayor and Art Gastlebaum of being in cahoots behind the Van de Kamp decisions. He also claimed to be “channeling Martin Field” (Mona Field’s father) and chastised Trustee Field. He did not use his full allocated time.

Chancellor LaVista, in his report, praised the work of the LACCD team of Felicitto Cajayon, three LACCD Presidents (Marvin Martinez, Chip Chapdelaine and Monty Perez), Trustee Field, and the district DC lobbyists, the Cassidy Group. The team had recently returned from Washington, D.C. where they met with Karen Bass and Janice Hahn, as well as officials in the departments of Transportation, Labor, Justice and Energy. The chancellor provided a series of rationales for the visits to Washington, including the importance of building personal relationships, the sharing directly of information about the district with officials, learning about Federal grant opportunities, and finally, insights into how we can make connections that address the needs of the LACCD. The chancellor said that during the recent visit, there had been discussions at DOT re: initiatives at the Port of LA, some helpful news from the DOE re: the impacts of future retirements in over 5000 DOE positions in California, and hope from the DOL re: our LACCD grant submission. However, the chancellor mentioned that there was a rumor that the DOL might possibly make grants on a one-per-state basis.

He went on to applaud the State-wide Student Success Effort and the prominent role played by Yasmin Delahoussaye in defeating the proposal to cut funding for basic skills two or more levels below college proficiency. A loss on this vote could have contributed to a negative fiscal impact to the District of between \$6 to \$11 million.

The chancellor concluded with a report on the subcommittee working on bond program improvement of the District Citizen’s Oversight Committee which is on-track to complete its work this Fall.

A motion to reorder the agenda was made to honor retired president Ernest H. Moreno of ELAC. Many quips were made about the longevity of President Moreno in the District, starting with Trustee Park who noted that “you started here before I was even born.” Trustee Candaele then remarked that President Moreno had been at the District since he (Candaele) was in college and praised his “legacy of success” at ELAC.

The Chancellor said that in his 17 year tenure at ELAC, President Moreno had hired over 300 faculty and staff and had made a huge impact on the District, ELAC and the community. The resolution declared Ernest Moreno to be “College President Extraordinaire” and the chancellor praised him for his situational leadership because “he did what had to be done.” The chancellor went on to say that he would miss three things in particular about Ernie. The first is Ernie’s habit of “arm-crossing” at Cabinet meetings which indicated that “there’s a history lesson to follow” on the issue at hand. Secondly,

he would miss Ernie as a “wonderful, colorful storyteller.’ And finally, the Chancellor said he would miss President Moreno’s model of presidential leadership.

Ernie reminded everyone that he had been an employee of the District for 42 years (since 1970) and he thanked the District and the Board for the “opportunity to experiment and learn how the organization operated.” He noted his success and failures and recalled that when he went to East, ELAC was “a place of last resort.” His goal was to “try his best to make it work.” He added, “Money helps!” Ernie said that he remains an “outspoken advocate for community colleges” and the advantages he enjoyed as a result. He concluded with a reminder that fear, anger, ego and ignorance can all be overcome with the power of humor and he thanked the ELAC Senate for their commemorative award and the Board of Trustees for their resolution.

Trustees Candaele, Field and Pearlman read the last three resolves in the Board’s resolution and the Board passed the Resolution in praise of President Moreno unanimously. The Trustees then gathered around President Moreno for photos.

Trustee Santiago called for special committee summary reports. Trustee Pearlman said the committee had discussed how to respond in a more timely manner to issues as they arise. She noted that Patrick McCallum had briefed the committee on the 2011 bills in the state legislature, noting two initiatives in particular; namely, AB436 (support for labor compliance program) and Proposition 1481, a student-led initiative to create oil extraction revenue to support education.

Trustee Park reported to the Committee of the Whole the process involved in updating the District Strategic Plan. She praised the work of the Student Success team and Yasmin and noted the 2010 ARCC data findings as further justification for the Achieving the Dream effort which the Board supports.

The Student Affairs Committee report was presented By Student Trustee Barrero who described the student effort to collect signatures in support of AB 1481 and the ELAC-sponsored debate on the measure. She concluded with a mention of the continued problems with parking at Valley and the coming rally at Pierce.

Trustee Veres gave the report of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the State Controller’s Audit. The committee looked at the 8 recommendations made in the audit as well as the disputed items prepared by the District in response. Trustee Veres suggested that the outside investigation of the District OIG by Wendy Gruel should proceed. The Committee made progress in creating a single document to measure progress against the Bond program, a single Building Program Master Plan/Budget that would be a summary of all campus plans and budgets. The committee recommended that budget amounts be locked at the project level. They also concluded that some issues would need to go to Bond counsel for clarifications and explanations, and that their work would “require several more meetings.”

No votes were taken or called for.

Trustee Santiago called for consideration of Item CH1: Appointments to the District Citizens’ Oversight Committee for the Bond Programs. Trustee Field noted that the changes in protocols and meeting more frequently were important positive steps. She urged that the Committee be fully staffed so that the Committee has a quorum to run its

meeting. Trustee Svonkin spoke of the need for the DCOC to “be aggressive advocates of the public interest” and to be active in bringing issues to the attention of the Board. Chancellor LaVista proffered compliments to the continuing members of the DCOC and welcomed the new members. He also informed the Board that the DCOC would be meeting quarterly. Trustee Candaele called for the DCOC to the report in-person to the Board of Trustees, which he noted had not been done for the life of the three bond projects. Chancellor LaVista stated that this would be possible.

Vote to confirm Jaden Ledkins (Student representative), Richard Slawson (At-Large Representative) and the reappointment of Dr. Elliot Axelband (WLAC Representative) passed unanimously.

The Capital Construction Committee was called to order. The first project to be considered was the City College South Gym Renovation project. President Moore introduced the project and the project manager for Harris & Associates. The project is 32,880 square feet costing \$7 million in Bond J funds with a completion date in August 2013. Trustee Pearlman interjected with the running joke of the day and announced she had taken dance classes in the LACC South Women’s Gym in 1968, two years before Ernie Moreno started at the District. Trustee Svonkin stated that the Board would have to make this their new standard – Before Ernie Moreno / After Ernie Moreno. Questions were raised by Trustee Pearlman about the LEED rating of the Project. Tom Hall said that since it is a renovation, there is no LEED standard requirement. However, the project Architect asserted that the project could earn a LEED silver if it were applied for. Tom Hall stated that Energy Star rating requirements have to be met for State funding and so these were included in the project. Trustee Pearlman noted that the Board had not received the usual checklist of LEED or sustainable aspects of the Project and Tom Hall said he would look into it.

The South Gate Firestone Educational Center Master Plan was presented by interim President Tyree Wieder who reminded the Board that this was a final review of the project on the follow-up CEQA review. She noted that the presentation also included a brief overview of the financial plan for the Center. A short history of the site (first developed in 1926 as Firestone Tire and Rubber plant) and the efforts by the District and ELAC to establish an educational center at the 18.5 acre site, with 1 million square foot of built space. About 600,000 square feet will be demolished over the two phases of the project while preserving historical or iconic buildings. Phase I completion will occur in 2014 in 136,000 square feet with approximately 7500 students. The plan calls for 12,000 students at the Center by 2025. There are on-going negotiations with the City of South Gate about traffic and street configurations in the project vicinity and the team expressed confidence that they would be resolved.

Lloyd Siberstein reported on the CPM firm evaluation process and some revisions to be implemented in the next few months. The two major changes require the colleges to include a minimum number and mix of participants in the evaluation to ensure appropriate levels of “governance participation,” and to revise/update questions to match contract criteria and provide additional objective criteria in the evaluation. Three groups

will be involved in the CPM firm evaluations, namely, the College, the District Facilities and Program Manager (PM), and District Non-Construction (District Finance Office, General Counsel, State Funding, etc.). Results of the evaluations will be reported to the Board in December 2011.

Trustee Veres presented his five concerns. He likes the connection of performance to specific contract clauses. He wants to see a quality evaluation but summarized with supporting documentation. He also indicated he would like to see a standardized process and shared governance positions with administrators, faculty and classified staff. Trustee Veres also stated that all evaluators should file a Form 700 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest. He concluded that what he would like to see a process for feedback from the CPM firms face-to-face with the Board as part of the process. Trustee Santiago added that all evaluators need to understand what the terms or contract clauses *mean*. Trustee Pearlman asked about the timing in the schedule. "Why two months? Can't it be done sooner?" Lloyd Silberstein answered that last time it took two or three months. He mentioned the difficulty of calendars for the group of evaluators. Trustee Veres asked about the role of Team #2, District Facilities and Program Manager. Lloyd responded that 5 to 7 people on that team filled out the forms and added comment lines to share with the CPMs.

Lloyd concluded his report, announcing the LACCD Build Bond Program Dashboard was going live and will be updated every month. It will reflect total program costs and with more detailed information, campus by campus, project by project, there will be greater transparency.

The OIG report followed with the release of two investigations by the Office involving coercion on Bid-Build projects at WLAC and LAMC. Both involved the changing of scores in the final ratings of firms and coincidentally (?) both included the same firms FTR International (modified winner) and Hensel/Philips (loser). Trustee Santiago stated that these investigations were "the tip of the iceberg." These reports demand further action, he said. He expects action by the next Board meeting. Trustee Candaele noted that FTR was involved in both of the investigations and mentioned the problems at Valley with FTR. He was concerned that the OIG was at the "limits of its bandwidth" and stated his belief that that it might require further scrutiny independent of the OIG. There was some discussion about one clause in reports about an independent investigation, but this was clarified to mean that the OIG would conduct a "separate" as opposed to "independent" investigation. Trustee Veres expressed his frustration with the reports and expressed the need to make changes quickly. He would like to see better tracking of documents and decision-making, and called for further investigations.

At this point, I was compelled to retire as the remainder of the Board reconvened their regular meeting just past 6:30 PM.