

BOARD REPORT
JULY 25, 2012
DISTRICT OFFICE

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE

City and East both presented their plans for improved institutional effectiveness. Both reviewed their strategic plans and how they fit in with the district plan. They also detailed their recent accountability numbers (both ARCC and other student success measurements). City described the various AtD directed steps it is taking to boost student success. East talked about steps it had taken to improve access (such as financial aid increases), as well as curricular changes planned (acceleration/compression models for English and Math, to pick just one example).

I noted that it was troubling to see both colleges report a considerable decline in their SPAR numbers (the key ARCC figure that measures student progress and achievement), though clearly both are taking some ambitious steps to change their numbers.

Pierce presented a substantive change proposal. They now have sufficient online courses to allow them to offer AA degrees online in General Studies (with three different emphases). In addition, over half of the courses for their Political Science and Journalism degrees are now available online. The proposal was approved by the committee.

OPEN SESSION

The session began just past 2:00.

Sandra Lepore and two other representatives from the Staff Guild spoke first, asking for the Board to take steps to complete their contract negotiations. Their 2011-2014 contract has still not been completed; they've been working with an interim agreement for a year now. Apparently the guild is asking for "one small item" that management has not yet agreed to. No details were provided. Lepore stressed that now is the time to settle.

They were followed by a young boy (around ten, I think), who urged the Board to maintain funding for the Child Development centers. He was quite articulate for his age and received much applause.

John Walsh from Hollywood Highlands castigated the Board over the recent report from City Controller Wendy Gruel's office regarding the hiring of the Inspector General. He called them racist for not believing John Chiang last year but accepting Gruel's verdict. (Gruel essentially agreed with Chiang that the hiring process was seriously flawed.) He urged the trustees to remove the IG now and not wait till a replacement is found.

Newly elected Board President Steve Veres announced his new committee chairs: Kelly Candaele, Legislative Affairs; Mona Field, Institutional Effectiveness; and Miguel Santiago, Capital Construction. Tina Park continues as chair of the Committee of the Whole, and Steve Svonkin remains the chair of Finance and Audit.

Mona Field gave a brief summary of the morning IE Committee meeting. (See above.)

Nancy Pearlman urged all the trustees to take a turn attending the Student Affairs Committee meeting. She has attended often herself.

In Chancellor LaVista's absence, Deputy Chancellor Adriana Barrera gave a brief report regarding "succession planning" (as in finding district talent to fill administrative openings). The chancellor has met with Don Gauthier, Joanne Waddell, and Allison Jones (the Teamster representative) about this. Barrera cited three recent examples of promotions from within: Leticia Barajas, Dan Walden, and Karen Daar were all recently promoted from dean to vice president positions (at Trade, City, and Valley respectively).

A new person was appointed to the District Citizens Oversight Committee and Park thanked the committee for its work.

The Open Session then closed and the Board began a Capital Construction Committee. The single agenda item was an update on the moratorium by James O'Reilly. He described it as a brief report, given that a fuller report to the Board will be made by the chancellor on Aug. 27. In the event, however, the discussion was fairly protracted.

\$800 million worth of projects has been released from the moratorium (apart from what was never on the list to begin with). An additional \$200 million will be released in the next quarter. That leaves roughly \$1 billion worth on hold, with half of this held back due to college preference. O'Reilly said the colleges were looking at their master plans carefully, looking for ways to "build smarter," and that some significant changes had already been made.

Both Candaele and Svonkin spoke in opposition to continuing the moratorium. Candaele wondered what the point was, if it wasn't saving money for the district. O'Reilly didn't respond to the savings question directly but said that college load capacities (building space, roughly) were being brought into line with projected enrollment. Svonkin reiterated his initial opposition to the moratorium. He promised to move to stop it at the next meeting unless he hears an argument to keep it.

Veres defended it, however. He said the moratorium was meant to do lots of things, and that lots of good discussion had ensued (on M&O budgets and building reserves, in particular). He also felt a reassessment of master plans was in order, given the time that has passed since the plans were first established. Santiago pointed out that the term "moratorium" was not really accurate, given how many projects had been released.

In response to a direct question from a skeptical Pearlman, O'Reilly said the Media Arts building at Valley had been released.

The Capital Construction Committee then adjourned and the regular session was reconvened. Since there were no announcements, it promptly also adjourned.

David Beaulieu
July 31, 2012