

## Board of Trustees Meeting

### Educational Services Center, Board Room, April 23, 2014, Public Session

Meeting was called to order by Trustee Santiago. Trustee Moreno and Student Trustee Griggs absent.

After the Flag salute, led by Trustee Svonkin, Trustee Pearlman provided a bit of historical background and significance of Denim Day.

Minutes were approved with some amendments from Trustee Eng.

Reports from the Resource Table began with Joanne Waddell, AFT 1521, announcing two presentations by faculty from the San Francisco CC (presently under sanctions) on the actions of the ACCJC on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. Velma Butler, president of the Classified Staff union, expressed her concerns about some instances that involved contracting out services that should have been performed by members of her unit.

Under Presidential Reports, City President Renee Martinez announced the names of the two students who had been awarded Jack Kent Cooke scholarships that allow for 2 to 3 years and a total of \$30,000 each for pursuing their upper division education.

(Trustee Moreno now present.)

Marvin Martinez, President at ELAC, announced the Speech Team had placed third in their class at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Speech Tournament in Denver. The Huskies softball team won the South Coast Championship, and the ELAC badminton team also won the championship in their division. Martinez announced that Gene Block, UCLA Chancellor, was recently at the campus to talk about the possibility of attracting international students attending ELAC to apply at UCLA. Marvin concluded his remarks with thanks to those who had contributed to the “very successful” East Foundation Gala with over 380 attendees, including incoming LACCD Chancellor Rodriguez. Monte Perez, LAMC President, announced that the Mission baseball team won the Western State Conference championship. President Burke announced the upcoming Pierce College Farm Walk. Farley Herzek, Interim President at Harbor, announced that the College Harbor Advantage had already assessed and provided education plans to over 900 high school seniors bound for Harbor, putting them 300% ahead of last year at this date. President Frank at LA Trade Tech announced that his college had been awarded the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) award for Trade’s Competency-Based Learning efforts. President Johnson-Hawkins announced the names of the two awardees for Jack Kent Cooke scholarships at Valley College.

There was only one public speaker. Zakia Brisker from Trade complained about “the state of things” at the college and “the disconnect” between the campus ASO and faculty and administration. She was there to extend an invitation to meet with all parties. The issue seems to be a conflict with the campus business office. She did not provide any details.

At this point, President Santiago provided Trustee Svonkin with a few minutes to announce that the Board would be adjourning later in the evening in memory of a number of individuals. The first was in memory of the much decorated LAPD motorcycle officer, Chris Cortijo, who was killed by a suspected DUI driver. Second, Svonkin recalled the tragic bus accident on Route 5 in northern California when a Fed-Ex truck struck a bus carrying local students and faculty to CSU Humboldt for their “Spring Preview,” a long-running CSUH program. Finally, Trustee Svonkin asked that the Board adjourn in memory of the two people killed by a gunman outside of two Jewish centers in Missouri the previous week.

The Board then moved to reports from standing and ad hoc committees, beginning with the “historic meeting” of the Ad Hoc Adult Education committee chaired by Trustee Eng. The committee met with K-12 representatives and the project director of the regional consortium created to address the requirements of AB 86 (Lieu). Trustee Svonkin reported on the Finance and Audit committee meeting earlier in the day. He noted that the district had

conducted an audit of campus foundations and had discovered many “findings” or areas of concern. A number of students and a few faculty members each made short statements against the Board holding reserves instead of distributing as much as possible to the campuses. The committee voted to send \$17 million to the campuses, including money for accreditation needs, the funding of CurricUNET to replace the ECD (Electronic Curriculum Database) system, and some other items.

Trustee Santiago then moved to the proposed actions on the agenda to congratulate two retiring classified employees and to authorize funds for Trustees Eng and Field to attend the CCLC 2014 Annual Trustees Conference in Long Beach on May 2 – 4.

Under the Chancellor’s Report, the Los Angeles Mission College STEM Program was introduced by President Perez, who emphasized that the program was focused on student success, completion and institutionalization of the effort. He noted that the ACCJC visiting team would be at LAMC the following day which was why many faculty leaders were not present in the audience but he did recognize Madeline Hernandez, VP of the LAMC Senate who was present. Perez introduced Dr. Mike Fenton, STEM Director, who began by stating that the grant was for \$4.5 million over 5 years provided by HACU, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Currently, the program has 210 active students. In 2013, there were 40 STEM Associate degrees awarded at the college. A number of different aspects of the program were presented by Dr. Fenton including outreach, curriculum improvement (i.e. Accelerated physics), mentoring and learning communities. Ultimately, the aim is to connect local high schools through LAMC to transfer to 4 year colleges and universities. Fenton then asked a STEM student to come up to the podium to speak. Jesus Lopez-Baltazar, a chemical engineering major, has been participating in research at UCLA and spoke about the STEM program and the opportunities he was enjoying at UCLA. The Trustees asked a number of questions about the program and how to connect to other programs and institutions. Dr. Fenton assured them that he would be pursuing any and all leads as the LAMC STEM program moves forward.

The Board then moved to the consent calendar. A few items were pulled for questions and clarifications by Pearlman, Eng, Field and Veres. Trustee Santiago then asked for a vote on all items except BSD2 and FPD5 on the consent calendar and all passed. Trustee Veres asked about the lease to Verizon of a sell tower at Valley and wondered if it were possible to add other cell providers to the tower to maximize the income from the tower. Dr. Barrera answered that she would take the suggestion under consideration.

Trustee Eng had questions about the acquisition of 23 additional acres adjacent to the District’s undeveloped 8 acres at Mission. The LACCD and the Sylmar Independent Baseball League (SIBL) owned equal tenants-in-common interests in the property, and SIBL has built 9 baseball fields that are being used by the local little league. The 2009 LAMC Master Plan calls for the development of a NCAA regulation soccer field and baseball field, various support buildings and a parking area on the other 8 acres. Trustee Eng asked, “When are we going to build on our side?” He argued that he could not see us putting more money into a project that has not gone anywhere in almost six years. President Perez of LAMC answered, “We had funding but had to let go of \$17 million because of the moratorium and changes to our list of projects.” Trustee Veres said that to develop the property, co-tenants need to use our road which raises liability issues. He then went on to describe some of the background to this based on his experiences during his tenure on the San Fernando City Council. He said there were “community conversations regarding the property ... [and] hope for some future land swaps to make a contiguous campus.” He added that this purchase would provide “an asset for the future.” There would be some unknowns if the property goes to auction as called for under County of Los Angeles Chapter 8 tax sale code. The estimated purchase price (sic) to cover all defaulted taxes, assessments and penalties would be approximately \$58,000 and it would take an estimated 12 months to complete the sale.

Trustee Moreno added that the property is in a floodplain, “so you never know.” He added that it was “a good bargain.” District Counsel Goulet said that “we could end up with a co-owner we didn’t pick.” Trustee Svonkin said he supported the motion to purchase. He noted that “Pierce has interesting property for little league fields.” O’Reilly pointed out that the District could use the property as is, and then if there is “some development, we could do the environmental work.” Svonkin asked, “Do we need any protections?” Goulet answered that this question had a “different answer legally and politically.” If the SIBL were in default, they would lose access to the property,

she added. Trustee Eng said he was willing to support the purchase but he “would want a report a year from now” to determine if LAMC funding remains a problem. Barrera said she would make note of Eng’s request.

At this point, Trustee Santiago pulled out BSD2 #1 which had raised questions about compensation for a firm (Broniec Associates) that would perform “recoveries” on behalf of the CFO/Treasurer. On the remainder of BSD2, the vote was unanimous. There was then a motion to vote on BSD2 #1 and the Trustees voted all in favor except for Trustee Pearlman, who strongly felt that the District should be doing this recovery work with our own employees rather than paying out such high percentages (between 25 and 29% of funds recovered) to an outside agency.

At this point, a public speaker who had missed the earlier opportunity to address the Trustees requested some time and she was granted five minutes. This was Wanda Solomon from Southwest who reported on her satisfactory progress in mathematics (thanks to tutoring) and announced to applause that it appeared she would be graduating in June. She continued to pursue her transcript issue and asked for help from the Board to “clean up her transcripts” after many years at LASC.

Before moving forward, President Herzek publicly thanked Daniel Keller, Curriculum Chair at LAHC, for his hard work moving the ADT degrees forward on his campus.

The Board then moved to a public hearing on the ELAC Firestone Education Center, Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report Draft Master Plan conducted by Terry Hayes and Associates. The presentation began with President M. Martinez providing an overview of the center which has been in operation in South LA since 1993. Ryan Cornner, Dean of IE at ELAC, and Mr. Ferrier of Hayes then moved through the presentation, marking the milestones in the approval process for the project so far and highlighting the factors that demonstrate the need for the facility. There was discussion by the Trustees regarding some of the “significant and unavoidable impacts” of the project since the property has architectural features that make it unique, including building 2 (the past Firestone offices) and the factory building itself. The entire property which includes a HON furniture factory is a California Register-Eligible District which has specific criteria for preserving the historic character of the tract. Most of the other negative impacts involve short-term construction noise and possible traffic congestion in the area. Final approval of the certification of the EIR and the Master Plan will be deferred to a future Board meeting to allow for consideration of Board and public comment.

The Board ended the public hearing and announced a series of reports and notices including the proposed 2015 Board meeting calendar, changes to the Personnel Commission Chapter XI Board Rule, and a number of proposals from collective bargaining units (Local 99, Local 911 and the Building and Construction Trades).

There was a motion to adjourn and then the Board went into closed session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Don Gauthier, District Academic Senate President