

MINUTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2010, 8:30 A.M.
AL SNIPES BOARD ROOM

Present: President Sechrist, Tad Thurston, Jacqueline Frock, Paul Buckelew, Mat Price, Michael Punches, Akram Taghavi-Burris, Don Coates, Jennifer Harrison, Darin Behara, Darby Johnsen, John Richardson, Mike Reeves, Denny Myers, Kim Lusk, Lori Johnson, Sally Streb, Dallas Worth, Mike Barber, Ron Austin, Brandon Isaak, Nicholas Webb, Lydia Rucker, Paige Landreth, John Claybon, Jiapeng Song, Pat Berryhill, and Stu Harvey.

Absent: Cecilia Pittman and Annalyn Gill.

President Sechrist welcomed the President's Advisory Council (PAC) representatives to the meeting.

President Sechrist stated that he attended the OCCC Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony the previous evening, and it was a very moving event. He commented that it was very rewarding to hear the acceptance speeches of the five graduates that were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Each spoke highly of the faculty and staff at OCCC.

President Sechrist discussed State Question 744. He stated that he would only discuss the facts of State Question 744 and would not advocate for or against the bill. State Question 744 asks voters if they support a change in the constitution that will require the legislature to fund K-12 education per pupil at the average funding from surrounding states. There is no funding source identified in the language of State Question 744. If there is not a specific revenue source to fund it, and if all other state agencies had to share equally in providing the additional \$1.5 billion to K-12 education, it would be a reduction of approximately 25% of state appropriations to each agency. The reduction would have to be phased in and fully effective in FY 2014. For OCCC, this would be a reduction of approximately \$2 million each year with a total reduction of \$6 million in the third year.

President Sechrist then addressed the following issues submitted by PAC members in advance of the meeting:

1. It has been reported that OCCC is considering paying all employees twice a month with a 2-week delay from the last workday. If true, why?

Yes, there has been some discussion about paying all employees twice a month with a delay from the last workday. The discussions are in the very early stages, and no decision has been made. Dr. Jerry Steward will attend the November 19th meeting of PAC to explain why it is being discussed, to listen to concerns, and to respond to any questions.

2. Why are student employees now limited to work 20 hours per week?

The recommendation and eventual decision to limit student employees to approximately 20 hours/week was made for a couple of reasons. The first was the dramatic increase in cost of the student employment program and the large number of students seeking

employment on campus. The amount of funds expended on the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) increased from \$233,000 to \$800,000 (before benefits). In order to serve as many students as desire employment on campus within the available funds, the total number of hours per week was limited to 20. The current number of students employed is 17% higher than last year (comparing October 2009 to October 2010). The second reason relates to the many studies showing that working more than 20 hours per week while going to college correlates to a negative impact on grades, course completion, and degree completion.

3. A number of staff in the Finance Department expressed concern regarding the final design of the Finance Department space in the new John Massey Center. Why was the proposed final design not provided to the Finance Department staff prior to approval?

The original design plans were submitted to representatives of the Finance Department for their input and comment. The decision to change the plans as originally presented by the architect to an open-architecture environment changed the plans. At that time, the revised plans should have been, but were not, presented to the Finance Department representatives for their input and comment. At the request of President Sechrist, Dr. Jerry Steward and Dr. John Boyd met with the staff in the Finance Department. They apologized for the failure to provide the revised plans for review and comment after the plans were changed. Additionally, a meeting has been scheduled for Mr. Walt Joyce, the architect who developed the plans, to meet with the Finance Department staff to explain the plans, answer questions, and respond to concerns.

4. A number of academic division deans and assistants expressed concern regarding the new workflow process for adjunct faculty contracts. Is there a way to slow or suspend the implementation until more input can be provided by the academic division assistants?

At President Sechrist's request, Dr. Felix Aquino, Mr. Gary Lombard, and Mr. Larry Robertson met with the division deans and division assistants to address the concerns regarding the workflow process for adjunct faculty and special contracts. Five of the six divisions have elected to temporarily suspend implementation while adjustments suggested at the meeting are incorporated. Additional opportunities for input and workshops on the process will be provided to division assistants in the near future.

5. The following issues or comments were presented by the faculty representative from the Division of Business. In summary, it was reported that the Division of Business is "pushing hard" to rename the division either the "Center for Business Education" or the "School of Business." Some faculty expressed disappointment that additional personal days were not provided as non-monetary compensation. It was also suggested that faculty contracts be based on number of days rather having date-to-date contracts. A complaint was raised regarding the late notices from Aetna on health insurance policy changes and also about co-payments. A question was raised regarding the recent increase in fees for students for open swim time in the OCCC Aquatic Center. The concern regarding the changes in the workflow for adjunct contracts was also raised. It was suggested that

OCCC, for safety reasons, consider segregated parking for faculty and staff with controlled access, separate from students and general parking.

The division name change issue has been forwarded to Dr. Aquino.

The decision regarding the two additional holidays was made for a couple of reasons. Many employees, including faculty, find it difficult to take time off while classes are scheduled or unless the college is closed—which prompted the decision to add holidays rather than simply add personal days. Providing the particular days selected allowed for the least disruption to our mission—no classes were scheduled and there are fewer students seeking services or desiring to use the library or labs on these particular days.

Free access is provided to the Wellness Center for all students, regular employees, and employee dependents under the age of 21. This free access includes the Aquatic Center during open swim times. If a student, regular employee, or qualified dependent of a regular employee was charged for use of the Aquatic Center during open swim times or to the Wellness Center, the person should contact the staff in the Recreation and Fitness Department office.

The concern regarding notices from Aetna was forwarded to Mr. Gary Lombard, who will follow-up with Aetna. Additional information regarding the co-payment issue needs to be provided to Mr. Gary Lombard and/or Ms. Rhonda Simpson (Acting Director of Employee Benefits) so that they are able to respond and follow up. Employees who are experiencing any issues with Aetna should contact Ms. Simpson directly.

Please see #4 for the response to the concern regarding workflow issues and adjunct contracts.

With regard to segregated, controlled-access parking for faculty and staff, the suggestion has been forwarded to Dr. Jerry Steward and Dr. John Boyd for review.

Some of the discussion following the presentation of the responses of the questions submitted in advance included statements by PAC members indicating a continuing concern regarding the 20 hour per week rule for student employees. President Sechrist will raise the concern with President's Cabinet to see if some flexibility can be provided in the future to respond to some of the concerns.

The question about student use of the Aquatic Center and Wellness Center was clarified. The question related to use by former students. The current policy is that former students do have free access. However, all former students are eligible for free membership in the OCCC Alumni and Friends Association. One of the benefits of membership is a 20% discount on the fees to use the Aquatic and Wellness Centers.

A PAC representative announced that the Communications Lab will have a “Documentation Day” event on Monday, October 25th. The event includes a workshop on Academic Dishonesty at 11:00 a.m. and a workshop on Fiction Writing at 1:00 p.m., in College Union 2.

A PAC representative thanked everyone for supporting the United Way Campaign, and if there are employees that would still like to participate, there is still time to complete a pledge card.

A PAC representative stated that the Oklahoma Global Education Consortium was a success. Also, planning is underway for a Games Animation Technologies Expo in the spring, and the Division of Information Technology will be seeking volunteers.

A PAC representative announced that Corporate Learning is hosting an Organizational Knowledge Seminar on Friday, October 29th.

A PAC representative stated that the new OCCC iPhone App has been very successful. The iPhone App is free and has various uses, such as campus news, events, campus directory, campus map, and weather.

A PAC representative stated that the Faculty Association will hold a “Soup and Dessert Day” fundraiser on Wednesday, October 27th.

President Sechrist invited PAC representatives to ask questions or share comments:

- What is the status on the renovation to the OCCC pool being included in the MAPS project? President Sechrist stated that the subcommittee of the MAPS Oversight Committee was approved by the City Council this week. Former OCCC Regent Alice Musser was appointed to the MAPS Senior Wellness Aquatics Centers division. OCCC still must apply to be included in the project and will as soon as the application process is announced. President Sechrist is very optimistic that the College will be included in the project.
- A comment was made that Food Service closes too early in the evening, leaving students that come directly from work to an evening class without a way to purchase food or refreshment other than from the vending machines. A request was made for the College to look into making a small amount of food available for purchase in the evenings for students and staff. President Sechrist stated he would follow up on this.
 - Update: As a result of the comment, the OCCC Coffee Shop will be open Monday – Thursday evenings until 8:30 p.m. It is the intention to also have food items available.
- A comment was made that food prices in Food Service are too high, and a request was made to review the prices. President Sechrist stated he forward this concern to the committee that reviews food service.

President Sechrist thanked the PAC representatives for their commitment to serve on PAC and adjourned the meeting.