

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FEATHER RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

President Elliott called the Special Meeting of the Feather River Community College District Board of Trustees to order at 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at Feather River College, Equine Studies Instructional Classroom, 570 Golden Eagle Avenue, Quincy, California.

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

President Elliott announced that public comment would now be accepted on any agenda item before the Board. There being no public comment offered, President Elliott adjourned the meeting of the Feather River Community College District Board of Trustees to Closed Session at 4:02 p.m.

President Elliott reconvened the Special Meeting of the Feather River Community College District Board of Trustees to order at 4:33 p.m. He announced that the Board had met in Closed Session and that no action had been taken. He also announced that Ron Taylor, Superintendent/President, was present via conference call.

The agenda for the March 9, 2010 Special Meeting at Feather River College, Equine Studies Instructional Classroom, 570 Golden Eagle Avenue, Quincy, California was approved as presented, (Sheehan/West) unanimous.

A. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Travis Bagley, member of the public, Rick Stock, Outdoor Recreation Leadership Instructor, and Joseph Munoz, retired Political Science Instructor provided public comment in opposition to agenda item B2a, Consideration of Resolution Regarding Academic Reduction in Force (4.5 F.T.E. Layoff). Mr. Stock distributed a handout to the Board of Trustees regarding FTES and the Outdoor Recreation Leadership Program.

C. REGULAR AGENDA

*** 1. Motion Items**

a) Per the agenda, Ron Taylor requested approval of Budget Strategy and Planned Cost Savings for 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. President Elliott requested that each constituency leader present provide comment and additional information on specific cost-savings measures with regards to the 2010-2011 budget. Mike Welser, Faculty Union President, stated that the list of cut programs cannot be located in the Strategic Plan, Program Review, and

President's Staff did not discuss it. He also stated that historically there has been a discrepancy in beginning fund balances on average of \$665,000 between what the District indicates that it's going to have and what it actually does have. Mr. Welser also reported that throughout this entire process there has not been a freeze to the budget, or a hiring freeze, or a reconsideration of some of the new positions being proposed. Prior to his comments, Mr. Welser had provided the Board of Trustees with a handout documenting specific cost-savings measures for 2010-2011. He provided those present with an overview of the information contained in the handout that included a \$156,000 discrepancy between the \$12,114,850 District revenue figure and the \$12,270,370 noted on the 311 revenue report sent to the Chancellor's Office. He noted other revenue sources on the document that included no backfill to restricted funds, rural schools, faculty program cuts in German, Business, Administrative Office Management, and Early Childhood Education. Mr. Welser also noted that the soccer program could be reduced to part time at a savings of \$30,000 and he indicated that requests for increases to current budgets for a Student Affairs Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Leadership Assistant, and Assistant Athletic Trainer Assistant could be put on hold in an effort to focus on savings and on keeping staff who are already here. He additionally stated that savings could also be obtained by cutting team meals, Almanor Fitness Center, books for the Incarcerated Student Program (ISP), and associate faculty salaries for the ISP amounting to what was reflected on the handout as approximately \$973,339. He also reviewed the fund balance of the bookstore at \$269,374 and that he had attempted to contact Jim Scoubes, Chief Financial Officer, regarding the issue and although he was out of town, he did provide some information regarding the question but that his answer to the question was not entirely clear. Mr. Welser also paraphrased a commitment from the Federation that was in the handout that acknowledged that Feather River College has an established process to determine the budget, and that if towards the end of that process there is still a projected shortfall, their constituency will pursue options to reach the shortfall.

Karen Paiva, CSEA President, stated that the unit is committed to its fair share of cost-savings options but until it has a transparent budget including bottom line dollar figures and cuts in discretionary spending, it cannot commit to a six percent cut across the board. She also stated that she is not in favor of layoffs but she also does not want to see the budget balanced on cuts to the CSEA unit. Ms. Paiva also wanted to point out that many classified positions are categorical in nature or grant funded and as a result any cost-savings options from these areas do not impact the general fund.

Jodi Beynon, Classified Senate President, stated that she understands how difficult it is to look at the amount of revenue that a program brings in to the college versus the amount it costs and not understand how cuts still may have to be made. She also stated that the institution experienced this first hand last year when categorical programs EOPS and DSP&S were cut when they provide so much support to students. Ms. Beynon further stated that the harsh reality that the State finds itself in is what is driving this situation and not the fact that programs and services are not valued or important.

Chris Connell, Academic Senate President, stated that he knows that everyone wants to resolve these issues as quickly and as fairly as possible. He also stated that the Budget Committee met for the first time on Friday, March 5, 2010 and that there were immediate concerns and issues surrounding the fact that the budget is not clear with regards to what the proposed budget is, what the actual budget proposals are, and budget items that are missing or double counted. Dr. Connell stated that it is his opinion, and the opinion of other faculty that this process needs to be given a chance to work and in the five days since the committee met there have been many items discussed that can be cut or reduced. Dr. Connell further stated that Joan Parkin, English Instructor and ISP Coordinator, informed him that as of March 9, 2010 she has cut \$125,000 out of the ISP budget. He also stated that with Dr. Taylor's approximate \$12,000,000 proposed revenue figure, the proposed gap between revenue and costs on his documents amounts to approximately \$389,000 which he indicates would need to be covered by other means. Dr. Connell further stated that he had reviewed the budget over the weekend and arrived at almost 1.9 million dollars in budget requests involving associate faculty salaries, full time faculty overload, ISP overload, and programming funding that could realistically be cut by ten percent or \$190,000. He also stated that if the listed programs were to actually be cut it would put the institution in a dangerous position with regards to recruiting because these students will make their decisions to go elsewhere to further their education. In closing remarks, Dr. Connell reviewed the constituency relationships that exist at the College and he indicated that the nature of these relationships is important in terms of trust, cooperation, and dedication and because of this he feels that the budget can and will be balanced and that all constituencies will agree that no one group will disproportionately share the burden.

Michelle Fulton, Associate Faculty Union President, stated that the part time associate faculty will take the largest hit no matter what decision is made. She also stated that the feedback that she has received from the associate faculty unit is one of, "we're all in this together", and she agreed with Dr. Connell in his remarks regarding the relationships that exist between the college constituencies.

Jessica Camp, Student Trustee, stated that there was an ASFRC meeting on the evening of March 8, 2010 and there was good conversation and ideas on cost-savings. She also reported that students are willing to see cuts in budgets that affect them to offset the budget crisis and their ideas included fundraising as well as reductions in sports budgets. Jordon Blackford, ASFRC President, also stated that the students discussed releasing a portion of the reserve fund to assist the institution, six percent pay cuts across the board, reductions in athletic budgets for meals and travels, reductions in the ISP budget and student employment, and the utilization of the campus facilities over the summer by hosting camps and clinics.

Michael Bagley, Chief Instructional Officer, stated that many of the faculty had not heard him speak publicly regarding the issue (to consider academic reduction in force) but that he wanted his friends and colleagues to know that he is their advocate and this has been a difficult time for everyone. He also stated that he has heard testimony from all constituencies stating that they

intend to work together to solve the issues and he further stated that he believes what they say. Dr. Bagley acknowledged the student participation he observed at the previous night's forum and he wanted those present to be aware that administrators have also discussed reductions in their own salaries to help bridge the budget shortfall. He additionally acknowledged that the administration is aware that the data for the institution must improve and steps are being taken to make this happen including the hiring of an institutional research person in addition to closer scrutiny of all budget proposals. After further discussion, Dr. Bagley recommended that the item (B2a) be tabled.

Lisa Kelly, Interim Associate Dean of Student Services, stated that she has grown to appreciate the collegiality with which Feather River College approaches all of its tasks. She also recommended that the institution not let a crisis drive its participation in making decisions collegially and she encouraged shared responsibility as the college moves forward.

Ron Taylor stated that he has heard from many individuals in the last three days and that his schedule has made the nature of the conversations difficult. He also stated that he is encouraged by the fact that all the constituencies have pulled together very quickly and that he believes the comments that he had just heard were fairly representative of what he has been hearing over the last few hours and days. Dr. Taylor also indicated that more details for cost-savings will likely continue to surface and he feels much more comfortable now than he would have on March 4, 2010 recommending to the Board of Trustees that it would be acceptable to table the second item on the agenda. He also stated that this issue will be a challenge, but that he is encouraged by the spirit of cooperation and this leads him to believe that the institution can accomplish what it needs to.

Trustee Sheehan stated that the emergency that the College currently faces is that the legislature is experiencing difficulties with the usual provision they would normally make for growth and cost of living adjustments and they are not likely to appear in the size or amounts previously seen for some time. He explained that this is difficult to absorb especially when institutions have three quarters of their budgets going to salary and fringe benefits. Trustee Sheehan also stated that going forward he would assume that Dr. Taylor and everyone else will act with full transparency so that everyone will have as much understanding as possible as to what the budget reality is that doesn't appear to exist now. He also indicated that perhaps the situation additionally indicates that the process needs to start earlier next year although traditionally it's always vague at this time of the year. Trustee Sheehan additionally stated that he felt that adequate cost-savings suggestions and concepts are being discussed now for the first time in this process and that there is a serious desire to make up what is thought to be the gap in available revenue. After further discussion and there being no objection, the request for Approval of Budget Strategy and Planned Cost Savings for 2010-2011 Fiscal Year was approved as presented, (Sheehan/Schramel) unanimous.

President Elliott stated moving forward, this is an opportunity for the College to establish a model (for future budget strategies) as the State of California is projecting the likelihood of these same conditions to continue for the next few

years. He further stated that if the constituencies can make this process work with the same sense of urgency and intensity as what is occurring this year it will create a sound process for future years.

Mike Welser clarified for the record that salaries and fringes take up fifty-eight percent of the District's budget.

***Roll Call Items**

a) Approval of Resolution #09/10-21 – Consideration of Resolution Regarding Academic Reduction in Force (4.5 F.T.E. – Layoff) was tabled and no action or vote was taken, (Sheehan/Schramel) unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

RT/ch