

Exempt Staff Meeting Notes
December 2, 2008

Members in Attendance: Mat Carlisle, Linda Blauvelt, Penny James, Tony Simone, Nancy DeVerse, Catherine Slagle, Nadine Hibbs, Linda Springer, Laurie Clary, Keith Foster, Stan Horton, Mike Kelly, Laura Ratcliff, Diane Smith, Maureen Espedal, Ed Brewster, Dave Halverstadt, JEB Thornton, Barbara Wood, Arlene Torgerson, Cal Erwin-Svoboda, Melissa Barnes, Jane Goldberg, Debbie Reynvaan, Mark Reisman

Budget Update

Dr. Brewster announced that he had attended an emergency meeting of the Presidents from across the state to discuss the budget situation. Gov. Gregiore met with them for a portion of the time. The Presidents received confirmation from the Governor that she is very concerned about the budget situation and feels discouraged about having invested so much into education in the past four years and wished she could spare us the reductions we are likely facing. The revenue forecast will come out in March, but the E-Team is in the process of looking at alternatives and asking for ideas from everyone. The official number won't be announced until the end of the legislative session, but we will be doing planning and make decisions by spring based on the possibility of a 20% reduction, which would mean a major change in how we do business. He added that the Coastal Caucus will meet on January 6 and they will be encouraged to remember that the community college system is part of the solution in an economic crisis.

Keith Foster added that there are certainly more questions than answers and the E-Team is just beginning to look at solutions. He encouraged everyone to respond with their ideas.

Barbara Wood inquired as to the possibility of closing down some of the community colleges in the system instead of taking bites out of all. Dr. Brewster responded that only the State Board has that kind of decision making authority. He added that he will be attending a meeting of the Presidents on December 12 and there will be further discussion on planning. The estimated dollar number at Grays Harbor College is a 2.3 million cut for the biennium. He also said there is no number from the Dept. of Corrections at this time, but that education is one of the non-mandatory programs in the prison.

Melissa Barnes had suggested adjusting the reimbursement rate for mileage down to reflect the current price of gas, since it had been adjusted up for the same reason. Dr. Brewster noted that is something decided by the federal government, but he has passed that idea on.

Copyright Policy

Stan Horton explained that although he is the contact person regarding copyright on the GHC campus, we have no policy about copyright. He distributed a proposed policy based on Yakima Valley that has a clause linking the copyright issue to our mission. He has forwarded this proposed policy to our Attorney General and they will get back to him

with concerns and suggested revisions. He added that we will use this as an operating policy until it is formally adopted by the board.

New Student Day

Diane Smith announced that the college will be hosting New Student Day for winter quarter students on December 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will not be any faculty around on that day, so she may come to the Exempt Team for assistance. She said that about 200-300 invitations were sent out and in the fall we had over 200 students participate. Dr. Brewster applauded her efforts for the event.

In addition, she stated that since the college is not rehiring the transitions position she is trying to develop plans and ways to continue those services. With the intention of providing services for Spanish speaking people, she has created a phone list that currently has the names of nine people who speak Spanish. There was a discussion about the suggestion that CLARUS had made to have a button on our home page for Spanish speaking people. Diane asked for input on the call list and said she will talk to Sandy Lloyd about getting the information on the web.

Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)

Arlene Torgerson explained that she and Tony Simone had attended a workshop about BIT and as a result of what has taken place at Virginia Tech and other campus shootings they are suggesting the formation of a Behavior Intervention Team on our campus to make more intentional efforts to find students in distress. This would allow faculty and staff a more formal way of notifying someone when they think a student needs help. She added that these are not emergency situations that require 911 calls, but a more formal way to track and possibly intervene with a student in distress. The contact with the group would be by phone or e-mail to one of the members of the core BIT (Arlene Torgerson, Melissa Barnes, and Tony Simone). The core team would stay the same, but the team members would change. Laura Ratcliff inquired about the possibility of extending the BIT to employees as well as students. There was a discussion regarding the same. Arlene indicated they will continue to work on the details of the BIT for students at this time, with the hope that it may begin in January.

Audit

Barbara Wood reported she was very pleased with the recent visit from the state auditor's office. We received only a verbal recommendation and have made great progress in athletics. She added that this is great news and there are always little things to correct. She also said that at the same time Mary Moore was here from the state board for an operations review audit, which also went very well. She explained that they get into the programs in more detail. Dave Halverstadt commended the payroll staff for their part in the audit, noting they were not even given a verbal recommendation. Dr. Brewster thanked everyone for their efforts.

CLARUS

Dr. Brewster indicated the Project Management Team is involved in coming up with strategies after reviewing the CLARUS report. He added that many of those strategies

will not cost us money, but will result in a reorganization of what we currently do. Those costing money we will sort through and perhaps push out to look at later. Our strategic plan will be in the same framework. The goal is to carry forward with quality and fulfill our mission, without costing money.

Other

- Cal Erwin-Svoboda thanked everyone for being so helpful to the student government group. He invited all to the annual spaghetti dinner and auction on Saturday in the GHC Hub. He noted that Casa Mia would be providing the spaghetti.
- Jane Goldberg invited everyone to the Holiday Party on Friday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. Also, the Civic Choir will perform on Sunday at 3:00 p.m., and the Music Dept. will have their performance on Thursday evening at the Bishop Center.