MINUTES
RCCDFA/CCA/CTA/NEA
November 15, 2016
RCC, DL 404

Present
Dariush Haghighat (Faculty Assoc Pres)
Shari Yates (Secretary)
Ervin Slavick (MV PT Rep)
Fabian Biancardi (MV VP)
Jacqueline Lesch (Riv VP)
Leo Truttman (Treasurer)
Chris Rocco (MV FT Rep)
Garth Schultz (RIV FT Rep)
Emily Edwards (Riv PT Rep)
Tim Wallstrom (NC Rep)
Mark Sellick (Dist Acad Senate President)
Cameron Young (NC PT Rep)
RCC Faculty Guests

Absent
Peter Boelman (NC VP)

1) Call to Order 1:00pm

2) Approval of Minutes (Rocco/Wallstrom): Approved unanimously.

3) President Report—Dariush Haghighat

4) The issue of doing (or lack of) background checks for some of the key administrative positions in our district has become a major point of concern for many faculty leaders in our district. At times some faculty members have become aware of some serious issues about some of the candidates after they have been moved forward for the final interviews or worse yet after they are hired by the district.

5) Dariush has discussed this matter with Vice Chancellor of the Human Resources. This is an area that the HR, the Senates, and the Faculty Association need to work with each other to modify and improve our board administrative policies on hiring to allow for meaningful background checks by professional individuals.

6) Discussion ensued about first hand knowledge not being allowed by HR to be discussed when hiring.

7) Finally the candidate that we had endorsed won! Bill Hedrick was elected as a RCCD Board of Trustee member for Area 1. Trustees Vackar, Blumenthal, and Figueroa called Bill Hedrick congratulating him and said they looked forward to working with him. He is such a kind and gracious gentleman; he will represent Area 1 and our district well.

8) The Faculty Association has been receiving frantic phone calls from friends and students in fear of what the new US presidency will mean to them.

9) Rafael Elizalde is asking for endorsement from the faculty, local educators, and organized labor for his bid for Riverside City Council. Educators need to get involved
in the local offices and board of supervisors elections. We need to find ways to support our students, colleges, and the district.

10) Dariush and Fabian met with district to discuss the possibility of moving graduation from Thursday to Friday. However, such a move requires that we reduce the FLEX requirements by 6 hours. Dariush and Fabian were presented with the evidence that reducing FLEX hours by 6 hours will cost the district $600,000 funding from the state. The district is not going to consider losing the money and Dariush and Fabian also agreed that it would not be a good idea for the district to sustain such a loss. As such Dariush and Fabian recommend that we vote to approve the status quo with our negotiated academic calendar.

11) Motion (Rocco/Schultz): Approve the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar. Approved unanimously.

12) The safety taskforce has been discussing active shooters and looking at Trump’s impact on student safety. Janet Napolitano, president of the University of California, issued a statement that the UCs will not change its values. The Interim Chancellor of California Community Colleges (CCC), Erik E. Skinner, also issued a similar statement.

13) Chancellor Burke sent a message to the faculty and students and district personnel assuring that their rights will be protected and safeguarded.

14) Many executive board members express their disappointment in Chancellor’s message suggesting that it was very vague and inconsistent. The message simply suggested that the district would protect the right of its stakeholders within the limit of the law. Some executive board members took issue with that premise suggesting that we might face some unjust and discriminatory laws. And if that happens, the district must strongly and resist and challenges those unjust laws.

15) The Association executive board unanimously decided that the Association must draft a very strong position on this matter and invite the senates, the staff union, and the district task force to form a united front on this most sensitive issue.

16) Moreno Valley College

17) Fabian Biancardi. Fabian reported that Sheila Pisa, Project Director of Basic Skills Transformation grant, is interested in extending the summer courses from six weeks to eight weeks. There is evidence that extending six weeks to eight weeks will help students in math courses. This idea is potentially important for the student success initiatives. Of course, we cannot compel faculty to teach, but there is no increase in hours of work—only that the summer session would extend into August. The faculty will work shorter days but extended over more weeks. The Association does not object to extending summer term as long as the district abides with the contract. In the past, the district offered summer evening courses that were eight weeks. Fabian
was told that the Association’s stance is to “go for it.” Of course administrators would need to be in agreement and have facilities open.

18) **Chris Rocco.** Fabian and Chris meet with Vice Chancellor Robin Steinback today.

19) **Emails were received indicating which faculty are going to serve on the MVC presidential search.** There is a forum happening where everyone is invited to come and express his/her thoughts and views on the MVC presidential search.

20) **Riverside City College**—

21) **Garth Schultz.** Garth stated that the issue in QD141 has been temporarily resolved. Regarding the math and science building, Garth is asking the president what the next steps to take to satisfy faculty.

22) **Jacqueline Lesch.** Jacque asked Mark about ed code that requires administrators’ ability to retreat to the classroom after two years of service in the district. Mark answered, yes, after two years academic administrators can retreat however colleges have to have a position available. Administrators need go through processes for a tenure track position as a finalist including teaching a demonstration and interview. Administrators should not be hired without minimum qualifications when they come to our district.

23) **Emily Edwards.** Emily received “thanks” regarding the reduction of parking fees for the part-timers. She was also told that some part timers work at colleges that do not have any parking fees for faculty. Dariush is hopeful that the parking fees will be reduced in spring rather than summer.

24) **Norco College**

25) **Peter Boelman.** Peter sent his report via email:
   
   At the monthly meeting with the interim president and VP of Academic Affairs we discussed the completion initiative and the faculty advising component. The administration has stated that:
   
   a) Faculty advising would be voluntary.
   
   b) The faculty who volunteer would do the advising during their regular office hours.
   
   c) If participating faculty needed training, and the training occurred during the winter or summer, they would be compensated.
   
   d) If the training occurred during the fall or spring semesters, they could receive FLEX credit.

26) The Norco administration was not sure if some kind of MOU was needed with the Faculty Association.

27) **Tim Wallstrom.** Today was the last Norco College presidential candidate forum.
28) **Cameron Young.** Cameron reported that the Norco College community building “Hire Me Day” is underway. Some part time faculty have pushed for a winter or spring FLEX event so more part time faculty schedules can be accommodated. Cameron will be working with Dan Reade who is coordinating the event. He’s impressed with Dan Reade’s commitment to unifying the faculty at Norco.

29) **Secretary: Shari Yates.** An inquiry was made about a faculty member who teaches both face-to-face and online but is unable to attend his/her face-to-face courses. Does the faculty member need to lose five days of sick leave when he/she is able to “teach” online? Yes, if a faculty member is unable to teach face-to-face and not able to attend office hours or perform institutional service, then the faculty member is not expected to “teach” online. If the faculty member is too sick to come to campus, then they are too sick to teach and must lose sick leave.

30) **Treasurer:** No report

31) **District Academic Senate: Mark Sellick.** Last week, the ASCCC plenary committee met and passed resolutions for the Academic Senates to consider.

32) At the District Academic Senate, the senates are revising board policy 7120b.

33) **Open Hearing.** None.

34) **California Community College Association (CCA).** No report.

35) **Closed Session:** Seven items discussed.

36) Adjourned 2:45pm.