Members present: Jeff Dean, Jeff O’Connell, Jeff Roberts, Jennifer Harper, Nicole Sandoval, Diane Berkland, Bob Mitchell, Terry Taskey, Jim McManus, Wayne Yuen, Luc Desmedt, Carrie Dameron

Members absent: Alyce Reynolds, Chieko Honma

Others present: Gari Browning, Ben Armerding

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2012 (A): All

Motion: Harper
Second: Roberts
Approved unanimously

Q&A with Dr. Browning (I): All

Dr. Browning came to Senate to answer questions.

O’Connell invited Dr. Browning to first address issues related to the budget, specifically how planning and enrollment for Spring 2013 is being handled. Dr. Browning indicated that all district residents had been mailed a postcard indicating that a class schedule for Spring 2013 would not be printed, since the final schedule will be dependent on the outcome of the election, specifically the fate of Proposition 30. The schedule for Spring 2013 will be available online and then revised, if necessary, after the election. The postcard, she indicated, is educational and informational in nature, noting that access to classes will be limited if the proposition does not pass and prevail over Proposition 38.

Dr. Browning also indicated that she is working to arrange a roundtable discussion on Proposition 30 for the campus and local community. The date of such an event will be announced to the campus community.

Dr. Browning provided additional information on Proposition 30. She indicated that if Proposition 30 does not pass, it appears that the entire Summer 13 session would be canceled. She also noted that even if the proposition passes, previously lost FTES will not be restored, but that immediate and drastic cuts will not take place.

Dr. Browning noted that if Proposition 30 fails, the college will face a 2.5 million dollar shortfall this year and while we may be able to fill some of this gap with reserves, this is not a sustainable solution,
since reserve funds must be restored. She indicated that there will still be a shortfall if Proposition 30 passes, and that this can be bridged with reserves but that such a solution is also not sustainable.

Dr. Browning indicated that the College is looking into ways to generate more income for use in the general fund, including more income from facility rental and possible assistance from the Foundation. She indicated that whatever the outcome of the election, careful budget planning will be necessary for any path forward.

Roberts asked about program and personnel cuts. Browning indicated that we have already a low number of full-time faculty as a result of previous retirements. She indicated that we were “very lean” already, so faculty and program reductions are not a particularly realistic choice for us. She noted that when considering program cuts, that the prospect of cutting FTES is a factor and we would not want to reduce that number, since it would work against our interests and have a negative effect on student success and achievement.

Yuen asked about cuts that are being considered and the money that could be saved. Dr. Browning noted that we would look to different sources, such as the reserve, the Foundation and rental income, and an increase in international student enrollment. She noted that other kinds of cuts, such as those in staff would be negotiable items, but that such cuts would be approached with hesitation, since such cuts would have a very strong effect on overall campus morale.

Dr. Browning noted that from her perspective, despite this news, Ohlone is in better shape than many other institutions because of previous sound management of resources.

Mitchell asked who the postcard about the schedule was sent to. Dr. Browning said that it was sent to all District residents. She noted that there are extras and if people wish to distribute additional cards, they should contact Patrice Birkedahl.

Taskey asked about what facilities the college rents. Dr. Browning indicated that the Smith Center is rented out, rooms at Newark are rented out, as is the board room on the Fremont campus and some rental business comes from the gymnasium and athletic fields.

Dr. Browning noted that there is a distinction between our “available reserve” and some “unavailable reserve” funds, with a distinction made since some funding must be replenished.

A question was asked about the competition between Proposition 30 and Proposition 38. Dr. Browning noted that neither 30 nor 38 are polling particularly strongly.

Dr. Browning clarified that we are looking at a cut of about 150 sections for Spring 2013 if Proposition 30 does not pass and prevail over Proposition 38.

Dameron asked about long-term planning at the state level. Dr. Browning noted that there is not much to report, indicating that right now the focus is on waiting for the outcome of this election.
Support for Adjunct Faculty (I): Sandoval

Nicole Sandoval provided an update on her outreach to adjunct faculty. Dr. Wright had previously suggested a survey to poll adjunct faculty about various matters, including asking their preference for either “adjunct faculty” or “part-time faculty” as a consistent way of referring to them. So far, the preference is for “adjunct faculty.”

Sandoval noted that there has been a good turnout for the survey so far, but that the closing date has yet to arrive, so there are still responses to come. She noted that there were many positive responses to the questions about adjunct experiences at Ohlone. O’Connell noted that he had read through the responses so far and found that a vast majority of the comments were positive, particularly noting that some of the “negative” responses illustrated that problems related to communication rather than with anything else and that the college may just need to be better and pro-active about communicating with its adjunct faculty.

This item will be on agenda again once the survey is complete.

Accreditation (I): O'Connell

There is nothing in particular to report on this item beyond the fact that teams are being formed and will begin meeting soon.

O’Connell reported that he is going on an accreditation visit to another college and will hopefully learn more about the process and report back to the Senate.

Approval of "Easy" Administrative Procedures (A): O’Connell

The Senate reviewed the previously distributed group of Administrative Procedures. These can be found at: http://www2.ohlone.edu/people2/joconnell/senate/

Proofreading and other issues were discussed and corrections were made in advance of the meeting, based on e-mailed feedback from Senators. One more opportunity to review the changes was requested and these will be up for approval at the next meeting.

Administrative Procedures 4226 and 4235, First Reading (I): O'Connell

Administrative Procedures related to earning credit by examination and multiple and overlapping enrollments were discussed.

O’Connell will seek out further information regarding the Education Code reference in AP 4226 and clarification will be needed regarding AP 4235. O’Connell will e-mail Senators regarding these APs in advance of our next meeting.

Announcements

The November 7 meeting will be held in room 1405A.
The subcommittee of Senate working on tenure and evaluation revisions has met and will be reporting to Senate soon. Roberts and Dameron are on this subcommittee and reported on some proposed ideas that were raised, including the idea of teaching portfolios and evaluation of specific goals as a part of the tenure process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.