

SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE  
CLUSTER LEADER COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 10, 1979

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Anderson, J. Edmondson, H. Dunn, R. Fairly, J. Morrisohn,  
P. Olsen, C. Solberg, M. Taylor, J. Webber, P. Huglin (Chairperson)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

PRESENT: D. Emerson, R. Sanchez

I. Cluster WSCH Comparison: Fall 1978-Fall 1979

A chart attached to the agenda showing Cluster WSCH comparisons for Fall, 1979 with Fall 1978 was discussed. Decreases in overall WSCH were reported for the following Clusters: Fine Arts/Ethnic Studies, Physical Science, Math/Foreign Language and Social Sciences. The other Clusters had an increase ranging from .01% to .08%. Overall, the institution had a WSCH increase of 1.2%.

II. Critique - Fall Faculty Seminar

Each Cluster Leader was given opportunity to critique the Fall Faculty Seminar held Tuesday, October 9, 1979. Comments indicated that the event was worthwhile, but at the same time, it was felt that conclusions related to the data should have been drawn. This was especially true in the area of programming curricular offerings for the transient group of 20-30 year olds that appears to remain constant and unchanged. A suggestion was made to consider a follow-up session addressing the implications the demographic data has for SBCC. This suggestion will be taken under advisement and a recommendation made.

III. Monday/Wednesday Scheduling

A report indicated that departments are scheduling Monday/Wednesday afternoon offerings more and more. Departments are encouraged to consider this alternative as it seems that students appear to want a schedule oriented toward Monday/Thursday.

IV. Cluster/Department Communications

Concern was expressed over the manner in which information is exchanged within the Clusters and Departments outside the Cluster. It was noted that often adequate communication fails to take place on relevant matters concerning faculty and that Cluster Leaders and Department Chairpersons are responsible for ensuring that timely information is passed on. Most Cluster Leaders appear to use a summary sheet containing essential information discussed at the meeting.

V. Certificated Staffing Needs for 1980-81

Staffing needs for the next college year will soon be requested from departments. Although employing new personnel for the next college year appears unlikely, departments are encouraged to submit their individual requests based upon projected needs. Inasmuch as possible, staffing requests should compliment three-year curriculum plans. All vacant positions will be reviewed individually and recommendations to fill them will be based on their perceived significance to the institution.

VI. Integration of Counselors into Departmental Meetings

The Council was informed that each Cluster has an assigned counselor eager to participate and become involved in Cluster/Departmental functions. Each Cluster was encouraged to determine the counselor assigned to that area and invite them to the meeting.

VII. Departmental Textbook Policy

Concern was expressed that in some departments, several different textbooks are used for a course having multiple sections. This circumstance often causes difficulty for the Bookstore by involving unnecessary costs associated with special ordering. Also, students having to transfer from one section to another often encounter difficulty since they are unable to use the same text. One standard text and several recommended readings would ameliorate the problem considerably. Discussion ensued and in one department, it was reported that a move toward reducing available book options was being considered. Other comments noted that instructors use varying approaches in teaching, thus necessitating the need for more than one text. A suggestion was made stating that textbook ordering should be accomplished through the Department Chairperson. This idea will be conveyed to the Bookstore Manager in hopes that the problem can be somewhat rectified.

VIII. Report on Southern California Deans of Instruction Conference

The Dean of Instruction reported on a recent meeting he attended:

A. Credit/No Credit

The issue of credit/no credit is still of major consequence statewide. The tenor of conversation continues to suggest that only course offerings at the 13th and 14th level of instruction should qualify for state apportionment. This continues to imply that courses such as Basic Skills, Math 7, etc., would not qualify for state funding. At SBCC, this interpretation could mean that nearly 40% of our existing offerings would not qualify as credit courses.

B. Grading Policy

A study group formed by the Chancellor in January, 1979, has recommended:

- 1) that uniform statewide grading scale be established including standardized definitions for both evaluative and non-evaluative symbols,
- 2) that the same grading symbols, definitions, and grade points be available for use by all community college instructors,
- 3) that there be a more restrictive use and meaning to the "W" symbol,
- 4) that probation based on excessive accumulation of grades of "NC" and "W" be evidence of lack of academic progress,
- 5) that a concept of dismissal for unremediated academic probation and progress probation be established,
- 6) that communication to faculty about Title 5 regulations concerning grading policies be improved, and that a meaningful state compliance system be established.

A hearing was held on October 5, 1979, on the above items. No information relative to the recommendations has been received. Upon receipt, it will be disseminated.

C. Statewide Accreditation

A move to establish a centralized Accreditation Agency for post-secondary institutions in California is underway. Support for this intention is unknown; in all probability, it will not occur.

D. Faculty Availability Information

An informal poll of fifty So. California Deans of Instruction who attended the conference revealed that over forty institutions require faculty to be on campus five (5) days per week, while 23 require them to be on campus 30-35 hours per week.

IX. Items 8 - 11L were deferred until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 1979 at 3:00 p.m. in A121.

PH/mjb

cc: Dr. Mertes                      Administrative Deans  
Mr. Gaston                        Department Chairpersons  
Mr. B. Miller                      Representative Council