

**RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
PLANNING FISCAL COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 2:30 p.m., Board Room**

Members Present: Laura M. Ramirez (Co-Chair and VPAA), Michelle Bean (Co-Chair and President, AS), Henry Gee (VPSS), Juana Mora (1st VP, AS), Jorge Huinquez (2nd VP, AS), Dorali Pichardo-Diaz (Secretary, AS), Shelly Spencer (Parliamentarian, AS), Mike Dighera (ASCCC Rep), Robert Bethel (Past President, AS), Jill Pfeiffer (President, RHCFA), Robin Babou (Faculty), Michelle Pilati (Faculty), Brian Brutlag (Faculty), Sandra Rivera (CSEA), Jim Sass (CSEA), Lisa Sandoval (CSEA), Martin Covarrubias (President, ASRHC), Jesus Colin (Secretary, ASRHC), Bailey Garcia (Treasurer, ASRHC), Rebecca Green (Mgmt, AA), Mike Muñoz (Mgmt, SS)

Members Absent: Yulian Ligioso (VPFB)

Additional Staff Members: Markelle Stansell (Senior Administrative Assistant to VPAA / Recorder), Howard Kummerman (Executive Dean, Institutional Research & Planning)

- I. **Call to Order** – Dr. Laura Ramirez called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – The October 24, 2017 minutes were approved as presented.
- III. **Superintendent/President’s Report** – None.
- IV. **Public Comments** – None.
Persons wishing to address the Planning and Fiscal Council on any item on the agenda or comment on any other matter are allowed three minutes per topic. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the Planning and Fiscal Council cannot discuss or take action on items not listed on the agenda. Matters brought before the Planning and Fiscal Council that are not on the agenda may, at PFC’s discretion, be placed on the next agenda.
- V. **ASRHC Report** – Success at Sunset, which is targeted toward evening students, continues to be very well-received by the students being served. Individuals who attend classes in the evening do not often have access to the same services that the campus provides during the day. To help bridge this gap, Success at Sunset provides them with snacks and various class materials such as Scantrons and pencils free of charge. The next Success at Sunset event will take place Tuesday, November 21 from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Student Union.

ASRHC will be holding an event called “Coffee with AS” during which time ASRHC reps will be in the quad from 10am-4pm, making themselves available to students to provide information about Associated Students and various clubs, answer questions, etc.

Recycling Day will be held on Wednesday, 11/15. Individuals who bring in recyclables will get a free slice of pizza. Additionally, there will be a “de-stress” arts and crafts activity in the quad.

On Monday, November 20, ASRHC will be holding Friendsgiving from 4:00pm-6:30pm. A Thanksgiving-style meal will be served in the Board Room (A102) and students may choose to rotate to the Student Union to watch *Home Alone* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Finally, there will be a puppy therapy event/adoption fair held from 12pm-2pm on Tuesday, November 28 in the quad. ASRHC has helped coordinate puppy therapy events in the past, but wanted to expand and combine this with an adoption event.

VI. Co-Chair's Report

A. **CA Guided Pathways** – PFC members were asked to gather in small groups and read sections of the article [Guided Pathways Demystified: Exploring Ten Commonly Asked Questions about Implementing Pathways](#) by Dr. Rob Johnstone of the National Center for Inquiry & Improvement. After working in teams, a spokesperson for each group briefly addressed the Council and highlighted pertinent passages from the assigned reading. Below are some of the takeaways:

- Page two of the article defines Guided Pathways as “highly structured student experiences that encourage completion.”
- We are likely to feel uncomfortable as we go through this process and there will be differing opinions. We don't know yet what Guided Pathways will look like at Rio Hondo. Page four of the document (towards the end of the page) introduces a number of concerns about compromising our high education values. These are questions that we, as a College, will need to answer. Our answers will be tailored to our student population and will not be the same as other community colleges in the state. We will need to work together and collaborate as a “Rio Hondo family”.
- As a tenet of the community college system, it is often the belief that all students can be helped to succeed and reach their goals. However, on page five, the article makes mention of data that suggests an inequity in completion rates based solely on income status; students from the highest income quartile are four times more likely to get a degree by age 24 than students in the lowest income quartile, even when the students were of similar abilities and aptitudes (as measured by their SAT scores). In other words, research shows that students may come in with the same abilities/skill levels, but extraneous variables (in this case, income status) may affect their success rates.
- On pages six and seven, the article poses the question, “Isn't “free choice” the cornerstone of American higher education?” Ultimately, it's not about taking away choices but restructuring choices so that students do not veer off track.
- Page seven of the article stresses that structure matters. The Guided Pathways model does not take away choice, but rather encourages organizing it into a “choice architecture” that is planned and not haphazard. It is important that we be as intentional as possible in the way we implement Guided Pathways.
- Guided Pathways will allow students to think about programs and courses but also consider how they relate to their occupational goals; integrating career planning earlier in a student's higher education journey may allow them to make informed choices that relate to the career they are ultimately planning to pursue.
- On page nine, the article discusses whether or not we will be sacrificing quality in adopting the Guided Pathways model. Fortunately, the quality of our offerings will not suffer because we will still have the same set of courses that students need to take. Rather than the quality of our offerings suffering, the Guided Pathways model will help students structure and streamline the process of getting through school. The standard GE package is still available, but students under the Guided Pathways model will be able to select more meaningful GEs that relate to their major and/or future career goals.

- Faculty engagement matters, as indicated on page ten of the article. Under the Guided Pathways model, subject matter experts (faculty) will be empowered to select and arrange courses, helping to achieve more optimal combination of classes.
- Page twelve poses the question, “Won’t faculty lose control over what’s taught in their discipline?” The short and candid answer is “faculty already have”. As a result of articulation and transfer models, faculty have already lost some control in this arena. Our “sets of funnels” are dictated by articulation agreements.
- The article asks, “Won’t we lose enrollment if we “decrease swirl”?” In other words, will strategies such as Guided Pathways cause us to lose enrollment which results in a loss of funding? The answer is ‘not likely’. Although overall enrollment may decrease, we won’t theoretically lose income because we don’t get paid for students who “swirl” and never complete.
- Page fourteen ponders the issue of “hand holding” and whether or not we are going to create graduates that will have difficulty navigating the workplace and the “real world”. However, the Guided Pathways model intends only to increase structure/parameters for students to help them stay on track achieve their goals at higher rates. Anecdotally, we know that enrolling in college is one of the hardest parts of trying to go. Getting through the enrollment labyrinth is a big issue. A discussion about Guided Pathways will hopefully include a discussion with concerning CCCApply, which some feel creates a big hurdle for students.
- Some students may benefit from using community college as a place of exploration (p. 16). However, research shows students desire more direction and guidance and that the foundational role of early career services puts that to the forefront. We should be able to design a system that allows for both self-discovery and efficiency.
- How can students be expected to make career decisions at age 18? Given that students change careers four to seven times, why would we put them in a Guided Pathways model? Page seventeen of the article explains that Guided Pathways prepares students to enter the workplace with clarity about what they are interested in, but also with developed skills that can facilitate career change or advancement in the future.
- Regarding Rio Hondo’s progress on Guided Pathways, an anecdotal comment was made that administrators, faculty, staff, and students at RHC seem to talk to each other more than at other colleges, i.e. less work is done in silos. Therefore, the work we are doing is collegial, professional, and always conducted in a safe place where differing opinions are. Its value also cannot be understated, as we are all working toward helping students get to the next level.

VII. Unfinished Business – None.

VIII. New Business –

- A. Update on District-Assigned-Personnel –** Dr. Ramirez spoke about an informational item related to District Assigned Personnel (DAP). The DAP hiring process will be placed in a future update of the PFC handbook and uploaded to the PFC webpage.

IX. Committee Reports

- **Safety/Facilities** – The posting for the Director of Facilities closes on November 25. Howard will bring results to PFC. Taskforce to plan Active Shooter Drill for next semester.
- **IEC** – IEC has been talking about Guided Pathways and the role the IEC will play. This year's Institutional Planning Retreat will include information on the Guided Pathways model and how it relates to Institutional Planning. IEC is also currently discussing how evaluations of governance committees and councils will proceed.
- **Program Review** – The Program Review committees are almost full. Program Plans are due November 22.
- **Staff Development** – None.
- **Basic Skills** – None.
- **SLO** – There will be a meeting next week to finalize institutional SLOs. The new template from Taskstream will also be demonstrated.
- **Online Education (OEC)** – A cohort has been formed to discuss equity online. Thus far, the Online Equity Cohort has been very effective and they continue to discuss what equity looks like in an online environment.
- **Student Equity** – None.
- **SSSP** – The Integrated Plan was presented to the Board of Trustees at the November 8, 2017 meeting and now we will work on refining the narrative.

- X. Announcements** – Dr. José Aguiñaga noted that the Library will have extended hours during finals week (Saturday, 12/2 from 9:00am-5:00pm and Monday, 12/4 – Thursday, 12/7 from 7:00am-1:00pm). The plan is to monitor the usage of study space and library services during this time to see if it is feasible to offer extended hours again in the future.

Dr. Ramirez mentioned that she attended the second day of the Assemblages academic writing conference sponsored by the Rio Hondo College Writers' Resource Center. Held in the Campus Inn over two days (November 13 and 14), Assemblages is designed to recognize the hard work and dedication of RHC students to succeed in scholarly writing. Students are nominated by RHC professors to participate and share their work.

Barbara Salazar reminded the group that the Second Annual Avance Student Showcase will take place on November 16 and 17 from 11:00am-1:00pm in the lower quad. This event displays student research projects (posters) related to transfer institutions, majors, and career opportunities. The event will also feature free refreshments and opportunity drawings.

- XI. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., Board Room.