

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE  
PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Thursday, September 26, 2013, 8:00 a.m.  
Rio Hondo College Board Room

**Present:**

Teresa Dreyfuss, Superintendent/ President, RHC  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Dr. Kenn Pierson, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Victor Ledesma, Co-Chair, President's Advisory Committee  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director of Gov't & Community Relations, RHC  
Howard Kummerman, Executive Director of RHC Foundation  
Chris Guptill, Dean of Arts & Cultural Programs, RHC  
Dr. Mike Munoz, Associate Dean of Student Services, RHC  
Phil Luebben, Interim Vice President of Finance & Business, RHC  
Samantha Marquez, Office of Assemblyman Ian Calderon  
Daniel Fierro, Office of Assemblyman Ian Calderon  
Toby Chavez, WCCCC  
Joe Duardo, Whittier Union High School District  
Elvia Torres, SPIRITT Family Services  
Martha Carreon, Faculty, RHC  
Elizabeth Mendia, Whittier Rio Hondo Aids Project  
Luz Galbreath, Whittier College  
Ivette Alonso, SFER Whittier College  
Amy Catt, Director, Interfaith Food Center  
John Salgado Jr., Synergy Empowerment  
Eliseo Alex Tenorio, HOT, GI Forum, Friends of Pio Pico  
Sunshine Zuniga, Frontier High School, WUHSD  
Alfred Lugo, American GI Forum  
Dr. Daniel Duran, Whittier College  
Alex Morales, CSULB/ Hearts Without Boundaries

The meeting was called to order by Victor Ledesma at 8:07 a.m.

**Opening Comments and Introductions** – Victor Ledesma, Co-Chair President's Advisory Committee

- Victor thanked everyone in attendance and stated the purpose of the President's Advisory Committee is to support the President
- He expressed his gratitude to see everyone at the meeting and stated that each person has a unique set of skills to support the President.
- Victor asked the committee to welcome President Dreyfuss with a round of applause.
- He invited each committee member seated to introduce themselves.

- Victor introduced Dr. Mike Munoz to provide the committee with an update on the Student Success Initiatives.

### **Student Success Initiatives – Dr. Mike Munoz**

- Dr. Munoz presented a handout on Rio Hondo College’s response to the Student Success Taskforce recommendations. There were 22 recommendations adopted that provided the college with clear mandates to improve educational achievement.
- He reported that one of the recommendations relates to Rio Hondo College’s ability to manage specific cohorts of students.
- Dr. Munoz stated that Rio Hondo College has approximately 1,800 incoming freshmen each Fall semester and reported that the success of a student is dependent upon their ability to assess and declare a program of study in their first year.
- Dr. Munoz announced that the RHC Freshman Success Center was created in response to one of the recommendations. The Freshman Success Center provides first year students with a comprehensive educational plan prior to the completion of 15 units. Additional requirements include assessment, orientation, and a mandatory one hour meeting with a counselor.
- He stated that students who meet the requirements are given a one-time priority registration. Students are also given a counseling referral and student support services referral. Freshmen students who do not complete the one hour mandatory counseling session placed in a hold status for registration.
- Dr. Munoz also reported that the Freshman Success Center is staffed by Educational Advisors who are on hand to assist students with all of the technical aspects of registration such as navigating the portal, and applying for financial aid, so that time spent with counselors is focused on an educational plan.
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### **Arts & Cultural Programs – Christopher Guptill**

- Dean Guptill thanked the committee and expressed his gratitude for being able to work with highly dedicated faculty and staff in the Arts department.
- He called attention to the Arts & Cultural Programs calendar and focused on the cultural events program.
- He reported that during the 2013-2014 year the Art department has planned 27 fully produced art events. He also mentioned the Wray Theatre is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year.
- The Latino Heritage event which took place on September 14 kicked off the celebration which included a mix of Folklorico dancers from Plaza de la Raza, various food vendors, and a “grito” contest co-sponsored by the Associated Students. The event was well attended by members of the community.
- Dean Guptill also highlighted other art events taking place:
  - Music – The Vocal Arts Ensemble will perform at various locations in Whittier.

- Dance – Rio Hondo College Dance Collective has been hard at work in the beautifully remodeled P.E. dance rooms. They will have performances in October, December, and May.
- Theatre – Student one-acts will take place the first week of October along with a Fall production of the 1940's "Out of the Frying Pan" and a Spring production titled "Almost Maine."
- Special events will also include a comedy show, magic show, and puppetry.
- He stated every one of the performances is free and gives the community an opportunity to experience the Wray Theatre as more of a cultural center for the community.
- In addition to the performances, Dean Guptill announced there would be 6 Visual Arts/Gallery exhibits. Ron Reeder's "It's about Time" is currently showcased in the gallery. The gallery will also once again host the holiday art sale in December.
- Dean Guptill announced the "SUR: Biennial" taking place October 17 through November 18 in partnership with 2 other galleries (Cerritos College and Torrance College). He explained that this event has received great response from the art press and has succeeded in placing a spotlight on the college. The purpose of SUR is to engage the community with art. It is the first art exhibit in Los Angeles to focus on local contemporary artists who have descended, lived, worked and/or been inspired by countries south of the U.S. border.
- Dean Guptill opened the floor for questions and none were asked. He thanked the committee for their ongoing support of the art department and encouraged all to take advantage of the free events.

### **Mission Statement Review – Howard Kummerman**

- Dean Kummerman thanked the committee. He announced that the Foundation is asking for the community's help in creating a new mission statement.
- He announced that there will be an open forum to review and discuss the proposed draft of the mission statement which would take place in afternoon of September 26. He invited community members to attend if available.
- Howard provided the committee with a timeline and proposed draft of the mission statement to review. He explained the purpose of the Mission Statement Taskforce is to revise the mission statement as a requirement of Accreditation Standard I. The taskforce used the guidance from ACCJC to come up with a proposed draft.
- Howard asked the committee to consider taking the brief survey that will be e-mailed to them after today's meeting. He expressed the community's input as a valuable contribution to this process.
- Howard opened the floor for questions or suggestions.
- Dr. Dan Duran suggested that the mission statement include wording on "competitive career training for today's job market" and/or "strategic direction for success in careers. He also said the word "dynamic" should be changed.
- Dr. Alex Morales liked the use of the word "diverse."

- John Salgado recommended that Rio Hondo include language that conveys the idea that staff is committed to the success of students.
- Howard thanked all for their comments and suggestions and said he would take these recommendations to the Mission Statement Taskforce.

### **Update on Accreditation – Teresa Dreyfuss**

- Teresa reported that preparation for ACCJC's visit in 2014 began last year. There are four standards that will be reviewed. Each of the four standards has a Chair and committee.
- She stated the board of trustees at RHC is working very hard with Standard IV.
- Teresa gave a brief overview of each of the standards:
  - Standard I: Institutional Mission and Effectiveness – Teresa explained this standard involves planning, programs, and how RHC responds to the mission through goals and objectives. It is also how the college evaluates its effectiveness and reporting.
  - Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Services – Teresa explained this standard takes academic affairs, student services, and library services to examine how they integrate with one another.
  - Standard III: Resources – Teresa explained this standard deals with human resources, financial, information technology, and facilities. She added that it also takes into account the Facility Master Plan. She expressed the importance of having a good understanding of what ACCJC is looking for and making sure RHC is ready for the visit.
  - Standard IV: Leadership and Governance – Teresa explained this standard involves the Board of Trustees and the governance structure. It also examines RHC's communication to the community.

### **Questions/ Announcements - Everyone**

- Toby Chavez asked how RHC maintains record of its effectiveness and changes throughout the years when not preparing for accreditation.
- John Salgado made a recommendation that RHC research a quality system and how they have impacted organizations so that RHC is prepared throughout the entire journey of accreditation.
- Elvia Torres announced SPIRITT Family Service's annual fundraiser will take place on November 1. She stated the event will be held at the Santa Fe Springs Town Hall Center and honorees include the Whittier Police Department and Judge Michael Nash of the county of Los Angeles.
- Philip Luebben said he was very impressed by the suggestions and comments provided by the committee and commented on the usefulness of those suggestions.
- Amy Catt announced Interfaith Food Center has moved into their new location. She invited everyone to see the new center located on Burke Street in Santa Fe Springs.

- Joe Duardo announced he is continuing his work with STEM initiatives. He thanked Vice President Henry Gee for a recent visit to Citrus College. He also provided the committee with an article regarding a 6-day STEM summer camp that was held in July for middle-school students in the Whittier Union High School District.
- Luz Galbreath announced Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (HOT) will be celebrating 25 years in 2014 and continues its dedication to providing scholarships for students. She also announced HOT has two events planned for October - October 5<sup>th</sup> is the Parent Education Conference and October 6<sup>th</sup> is the Arte y Musica fundraising event. She invited all to attend.
- Ivette Alonso announced she was invited to attend today's meeting due to her involvement with the Parent Ed Conference and Student Leadership Conference. She stated she is a current Whittier College student and a member of Students for Education Reform (SFER). She expressed her excitement in hosting the Student Leadership Conference on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Danny Fierro announced during the last legislation session, the governor signed AB10 which will raise the minimum wage to ten dollars by 2016 and AB16 which allows undocumented immigrants to apply for a driver's license. He said the State continues to strive for a balanced budget.
- Samantha Marquez announced Assemblyman Ian Calderon will sponsor a college fair at La Puente High School on September 28. Forty-one colleges and universities are expected to attend. She thanked Rio Hondo College for their participation.
- Alfred Lugo announced he is continuing his work with Vet Hunters and an interest to film a documentary on PTSD. He stated they are in process of taking a theatrical play to New Mexico while working on the documentary. The goal is to produce a DVD and curriculum that can be used for all Veterans.
- Dan Duran announced Whittier College will host a meeting on September 26 from 6-8 p.m. to engage community members. He asked the committee to consider attending.
- John Salgado announced HOT will host the Arte y Musica fundraiser on October 6<sup>th</sup> to help provide scholarships. The event will highlight SPIRITT Family services and their art therapy program for substance abuse problems.
- Sunshine Zuniga announced Whittier Union High School District will host a College Fair on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Pioneer High School.

**Optional Tour of AJ complex – Everyone**

- Members of the committee were invited to tour the Administration of Justice complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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RHC Handouts:

- Meeting Agenda
- Arts & Cultural Events Calendar 2013-2014
- Mission Statement Review Sessions flyer
- Mission Statement Revision Timeline
- Proposed Draft of Mission Statement provided by Mission Statement Taskforce
- President's Update – August 2013
- Continuing Education Fall 2013
- Let's Talk College – Fall 2013
- RHC Newsletter – Summer 2013
- El Monte Educational Center Fall 2013 Class Schedule
- Honors Transfer Program brochure
- GO RIO Program flyer