

RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT PLANNING FISCAL COUNCIL MINUTES Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 2:30 p.m., Board Room

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

Members Absent: Henry Gee (VPSS), Yulian Ligioso (VPFB), Mike Dighera (ASCCC Rep), Michelle Pilati (Faculty), Jesus Colin (Secretary, ASRHC)

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 2:37pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – The September 26, 2017 minutes were accepted with minor edits: additional figures included regarding 2017-2018 budget and the breakdown; Mike Muñoz was added to the list of “members present”; the date and location of the CA Guided Pathways Conference was corrected.
- III. **Superintendent/President’s Report** – None.
- IV. **Public Comments** – Sandra Rivera asked for a comprehensive list of RHC Committees and their current membership. Markelle Stansell will work on compiling a list for distribution at a future PFC meeting.
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** – Wednesday, October 11 is National Coming Out Day, an annual LGBTQ awareness day. There will be tents set up outside with various incentives to garner student attention and participation. Additionally, a workshop will be held for the student exec members on what it means to be an Ally.

An update was provided on the Success at Sunset event, which is targeted toward students who take evening classes since they typically do not receive the same support services as students who are on campus during the day. The event provides evening students with food and snack items, pencils, Scantrons, and other testing materials at no charge. Another “Success at Sunset” event will be held on Tuesday, October 17, with the hope of migrating various activities and events to be targeted toward or accessible by evening students.

On Wednesday, 10/25 there will be a car show and DIY workshop as a part of the sustainability taskforce. As a part of this event, students will be able to make a “self-care” package, which includes handmade soap, oils, etc.

Finally, the Beautification of Workman Mill Road project was pushed back until November 4 because the co-organizers were unavailable on the original date.

VI. Co-Chair's Report

A. CA Guided Pathways – CA Guided Pathways is a statewide initiative to implement an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success by creating structured educational experiences that support each student from point of entry to completion. In September, several administrators and faculty attended the CA Guided Pathways Institute in Costa Mesa. One of the presentations included a “Family Feud”-style trivia game, utilizing data taken from colleges throughout the state. Laura and Michelle encouraged PFC members to participate in attempting to guess the most popular answers to the following questions:

- *What do new students generally ask advisors/counselors?*
 1. What are my career options?
 2. What courses should I take?
 3. How long will it take?
 4. How much will it cost?
 5. How much financial aid can I get?
 6. Will my credits transfer?

- *Why are student athletes so successful?* * (*in research that was shared at the conference, student athletes emerged as the group of students that consistently performed well and had high transfer rates)
 1. Motivation
 2. Clear course paths
 3. Chair/Coach (mentorship)
 4. Mandatory support (assigned counselors, etc.)
 5. Peer support
 6. Ticking time clock
 7. Discipline/Accountability
 8. Uniforms

An essential practice will be to clarify paths for students by simplifying their choices with default program maps developed by faculty and counselors. Students will also benefit from a strong advising process that is both embedded and ongoing in the Pathway model. Follow-up and monitoring students' progress will be key.

PFC members were also asked to participate in an exercise where they formed small groups and discussed the following question: *“If Guided Pathways is a framework for colleges to “better organize” academic programs and student services, what are your fears in approaching such an effort?”* Some of the recurring concerns expressed were as follows:

- As faculty are asked to do additional work, there will not be additional compensation
- There will not be sufficient engagement and buy-in necessary to implement Guided Pathways. This initiative is so all-encompassing that there will be tremendous time and effort dedicated to the project, and the fear is that it will not “move the needle”. Many worry that statewide, Guided Pathways will be considered the “flavor of the month” and will eventually fall to the wayside.
- Will Pathways give students enough choices and opportunities to explore?
- We may not be bringing everyone to the table that needs to be there. The work cannot happen in “silos”; the effort must be highly collaborative.
- There may be limited faculty buy-in, and change needs to take effect in the classroom.
- Will certain courses that are not part of a Pathway be phased out or no longer taught? Will they lose value to the students?

- Are we doing too much “hand-holding”? We are not fostering student independence by asking them to review the College Catalog and choose a pathway for themselves.

The ASRHC reps at the meeting expressed no fears regarding the CA Guided Pathways model. They said that they enjoy the idea of sequenced classes, but still wanted the ability to venture outside of their major to explore new topics and electives. They were asked their impressions about the Course Catalog and said that although it’s online and easy to navigate, many students do not know where to access it. Mike Muñoz mentioned that the Catalog is covered in Counseling classes and is also available to students in the Counseling Office and Transfer Center.

Robert Bethel inquired about the premise that is driving the Guided Pathways initiative: is it that students are in community college too long? If so, that means there’s an assumption that this is a problem to be fixed. However, Robert posed the question: “Does it need to be fixed?” Perhaps certain types of students benefit from the community college environment. Robert further explained that as a community college, we serve the needs of the community whereas a “junior” college focuses more on pathways to a 4-year institution. Dr. Jim Sass pointed out that the *time* students take to complete is only a symptom of a bigger issue, which is: are our students *completing* their goals? As the discussion continued, it was mentioned that sixty percent of incoming RHC students express an interest in transferring, but the actual number of students who successfully transfer is relatively low in comparison.

Others stated that we need to be mindful of any roadblocks that may impede their progress to completion; the Guided Pathways framework looks at all the ways we can make this a smooth process to help students reach their goals. Ultimately, the takeaway is that we are not *given* a framework, we get to *create* one. This process needs to be born organically from Rio Hondo College constituents.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. **Integrated Plan** – Mike Muñoz opened the floor for comments, edits, concerns, etc. regarding the Integrated Plan. Hearing none, it will be routed through the governance process, vetted, and submitted to President Dreyfuss for final review. Once completed, it will go before the board on November 8. The mid-year report for BSI, Student Equity, and SSSP was turned in last week and additional funding has been requested for these areas. The Integrated Plan is reviewed by the Chancellor’s Office and may be sent back for edits, although it was noted that RHC has always produced a clean copy and has never had it returned to us. This is a two-year plan and the objectives were written so they can be achieved in this timeframe.

VIII. New Business – None.

IX. Committee Reports

- **Safety/Facilities** – No report.
- **IEC** – There will be a draft template available in Taskstream for SLO and SAO outcomes by the end of October to test. Regarding overall implementation and training, the hope is that everyone will be trained on the new system by Spring.
- **Program Review** – Program review and plans are due on November 22.

- **Staff Development** – No report.
- **Basic Skills** – See attached.
- **SLO** – See attached.
- **Online Education (OEC)** – See attached.
- **Student Equity** – Juana Mora commended the Student Equity Committee for their participation and facilitation of Café Con Libros. Dr. Sass led the first structured conversation. Mike Muñoz commended Dr. Sass for his facilitation skills and insight. The group discussion was very productive and enlightening, as the members spoke about why they work in community colleges and what brought them here. They also talked about how well community colleges are meeting those goals that brought us here. This discussion might be an entry point into how we might start looking at ways we can change. There will be another Café Con Libros meeting on Wednesday, October 11 discussing Chapters 2 and 3 of the book. Chapter 3 talks about what Guided Pathways will look like in the classroom, so it is a very timely discussion.
- **SSSP** – SSSP was audited and had to produce various forms of evidence based on a list of random students they were provided. They were asked for comprehensive ed plans, counselor's notes, etc. They were able to successfully provide all requested documentation, but it should be noted there continues to be a greater expectation of accountability and tangible evidence of what we are doing.

X. Announcements – Sandra Rivera noted that bodies such as PFC go through evaluations. Howard Kummerman indicated that one of our goals is to redesign the evaluation process, including doing a survey and evaluating our governing bodies.

XI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., Board Room.