

District Consultation Council August 23, 2022

Report to Sept 2 College Council by Nick Strobel, Academic Senate President

Here are the topics covered at the August 23rd meeting of DCC along with my commentary.

Chancellor's Report

BOT: The July Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting focused on workforce development, California Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Community Economic Resilience Fund. The August BOT meeting focused on Early College and a first reading of the college accreditation midterm reports. The Sept BOT meeting will focus on Resource Development and Facilities, emeriti, approval of college accreditation midterm reports, and the adoption of the budget.

Enrollment: BC is rebounding strongly from 2021. Cerro Coso is still declining. Porterville is flat. As of August 21 or 22, BC made up 72.5% of the KCCD FTES and 75.2% of the KCCD unique headcount.

Budget: Budget will be adopted at Sept 8 BOT meeting.

Governor's final budget after May Revise: CREL has \$50M for KCCD. We have some \$\$ for constructing BC's student housing (see Opening Day presentation about it) and Porterville and Cerro Coso will be doing feasibility studies for student housing. KCCD usually tries to hire 2 or more faculty over the FON for cushion and BC is taking up nearly ALL of the KCCD FON.

BOT Finance committee approved the investment proposals, being mindful of the 50% as we move forward, hiring where we can with categorical funding, and wants to raise the budget reserve hard floor from 15% to 20% and soft ceiling from 20% to 25%.

Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award Lecture + Dinner: September 29th and I'm the speaker. I'll be speaking on the virtue of humility in science, religion, and freedom of speech. It'll be the best darn talk ever in the history of humanity.

Workforce and Economic Development Grants: many of tens of millions of dollars coming to KCCD, much of it focused on moving to a renewable energy future and climate change—preparing for where we need to be in 10-20 years. Speaking of which: October 25-26 is the California Economic Pre-Summit Institute on Community Economic Mobility: A Focus on Energy and Climate Resilience at the Convention Center from 8 AM to 4 PM each day. Register at <https://bit.ly/3w6umXH> .

Board Policy/Administrative Procedures

The entire Board Policy manual has been converted to the CCLC numbering system and it is posted at <https://www.kccd.edu/board-trustees/board-policy/board-policies-procedures> . It is much easier to navigate than before and it includes the Administrative

Procedures as well. Also, at the beginning of each chapter is of which policies and procedures are “rely primarily upon the advice and judgement of” or “by mutual agreement with” the Academic Senate plus which ones are accreditation related. For example, BP 6200 and BP 6250 (Budget Preparation and Budget Management) are “Rely Primarily Upon the Advice and Judgement”, so changes to the budget reserve levels will have to go through the full consultative process (local budget committee, senate, and districtwide budget committee and district consultation council).

Board policies and procedures will undergo a regular cycle of review.

Resource Development & Facilities Update

See Randall Rowles’ report for updates at the colleges and the investment proposals. In order to get state funding for buildings, we need to improve our classroom utilization numbers. This is going to get harder to do as we shift more of our FTES to Early College and in a way, cannibalize from future potential students. It remains to be seen if the extra boost in special admit FTES funding will outweigh the loss of students in BC campus and online classes.

Major changes are being proposed in properties: acquisition of new sites and moving of some current groups/offices to other sites. See Rowles’ report!

Educational Services

Districtwide Early College Presentation: KCCD has the second largest dual enrollment program in the state — we’re about equal to Los Angeles and Fresno CCD’s *combined!* Early College is an excellent/critical component of the Guided Pathways Pillar 2 (entering the path) and Pillar 3 (staying on the path) and it has a strong equity benefit by focusing on students who would not otherwise even consider college after high school graduation AND it has great student success because of having a “captive audience” of students with less financial and family pressures than our traditional college age students have as well as 5 days a week attendance vs. the 2-3 days/week attendance we have at BC.

The weak point to Early College is Pillar 4 (ensuring college-level learning) and being able *prove* the quality of dual enrollment instruction is the same or better than we have at BC. BC has to be able to document and *prove* the quality is high for accreditation purposes and let’s say that there has been “less than adequate” transparency and evaluation across all DE classes by our departments, often through no fault of their own. BC faculty have a number of obstacles in being able to evaluate DE instruction in their subject disciplines. There are five priorities of Early College for 2022-23 and the last one “develop a process for evaluating dual enrollment courses at high school locations” was the last one and only time in the presentation that it was mentioned. I asked that the next presentation about DE given focus on that.

From a financial standpoint, some department/programs are seeing their enrollments drop as potential students get their classes done in high school. At Delano, this could

impact the \$2M apportionment we get for having a center if we were to drop below the 1000 FTES threshold. In the near term, there doesn't appear to be any problem with using meeting the FTES thresholds at Delano or even BC Southwest but we need to be sure that college center enrollment impacts is a variable in our projected funding calculations. Another variable in the funding projection calculation needs to be the potential impact on our classroom utilization rates that the state uses for facility funding. Near term, we're fine but are we as certain for what it'll be 5-10 years from now?

REACH, LAEP, Unlocking Opportunities: REACH = Racial Equity for Adult Credentialing in Higher Education focuses on adult learners through non-credit to credit stackable pathways. At BC, the Business & Entrepreneurship pathway is our line into REACH.

LAEP = Learning Aligned Employment Program also focuses on adult learners and stackable credentials. Unlocking Opportunities is a collaborative with 10 colleges over 3 years to improve post-graduation outcomes using solid evidence-based research.

Business Services

The state and KCCCD budget picture for this coming year is very good. Statewide the SCFF will probably go into effect—i.e., “hold harmless” will end—in 2025-26. KCCCD continues to be one of the few college districts that has strong FTES, even growth in FTES. State political leaders are directing A LOT of money toward the community colleges with the expectation that there will be improved student educational outcomes, advances in equity, increased intersegmental collaboration (CCCs, CSUs, UCs), and improved workforce preparedness. The state political leaders are recognizing that community colleges give the most education “bang for the buck” of an educational system.

We received more money with the May revise than we expected in January/February when the tentative budget was prepared. Most of that excess money, if not all the excess money, is going into the districtwide unrestricted reserves instead of going directly to the colleges. The concern by the BOT Finance committee is the upcoming recession. “The good times are not going to last forever” so we need to beef up our reserves and codify it permanently in board policy because the bad times *ARE* going to last forever (or that appears to be the logic anyway).

We had a long battle several years ago to get BOT to agree to a budget reserve floor of 15% with a soft ceiling of 20% at a time when budget reserves were regularly well above 30% (closer to 40%) and when colleges had difficulty taking care of instructional and student success needs. The thought with establishing the soft ceiling of 20% is that the excess above the 20% would go back to the colleges to manage as they saw fit—i.e., to the colleges working in the trenches rather than the district office directing everything from their distant location. The projected districtwide budget reserve is expected to be 22% and current cashflow predictions for the 2023 to 2028 timeframe of spending it down to 19.4%. It appears that the actors have changed while the script

they're reading from hasn't changed. (You can maybe sense how I personally feel about raising the reserve limits.)

Full-time Temporary Faculty Hiring

This past summer, the Cerro Coso Senate President asked the other two Senate presidents about whether or not she should insist that a screening committee for a full-time temporary faculty screening committee have the three faculty as we have for tenure-track positions instead of just the department chair as we have for adjunct positions. While we now have separate Board Policy for full-time temporary faculty hiring, it does not explicitly cover the FT temp hiring process. The BP language for tenure-track hiring has said for many years that it is “applicable to all personnel with employment contracts based on the Basic Faculty Salary Schedule”. FT temp faculty have employment contracts based on the Basic Faculty Salary Schedule. However, the process for hiring of FT temps varies WIDELY among the colleges and departments with more departments using the adjunct hiring model instead of the tenure-track hiring process.

BC hired a bunch of FT Temps the weekend before the fall semester started. None of them had screening committees approved by the Senate and most involved just the department chair as the sole faculty.

On the other hand, FT Temps are only hired when there is an emergency as a stopgap measure when the tenure-track searches fail. On the other hand (that's three hands for those who are counting), the Senate did meet during the summer to take care of screening committee approvals and there were no equivalency requests. The Senate will be considering language to enable the Equivalency Committee to meet as needed in the summer, so that will take care of future equivalency requests. The Vice-Chancellor of Educational Services said that he would meet with the Senate presidents to clarify the language in the FT Temporary faculty board policy and admin procedure.