

MINUTES
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FIRST ADJOURNED MEETING FROM THE 516th REGULAR MEETING
February 21, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING
YCCD Board Room
Yosemite Community College District
2201 Blue Gum Ave
Modesto, California
5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Abe Rojas at 5:30 p.m. Trustees then recessed to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the following Closed Session Agenda items:

Discussion: 1. Pursuant to G. C. Section 54957
Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Appointment

The Board of Trustees reconvened to Public Session at 6:25 p.m. in the YCCD Board Room, Yosemite Community College District. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag preceded formal Board action.

Board Members Present Anne DeMartini
 Paul Neumann
 Pat Dean
 Linda Flores
 Abe Rojas
 Desirree Abshire
 Tom Hallinan

Board Members Absent Elbert James, Student Trustee

Others Present T. Scott, D. Wirth, G. Rose, R. Rose, R. Darnell, D. Baggett,
 N. Stavrianoudakis, J. Sahlman, D. Campbell, J. Lanning,
 S. Clark, J. Zamora, G. Whitfield, B. Watts, and S. Akiona
 (recorder).

15,744
Report Out from Closed There was no report out from Closed Session.
Session

15,745
Modesto Junior College Chancellor Darnell reported that accreditation information has
Accreditation been compiled and provided to the Board for their review. He
 reviewed the information with the Board which included MJC's
 2007 evaluation report, MJC's current progress report,
 Accreditation Standards, a Rubric outlining accreditation
 benchmarks, and other documents.

MJC President, Rich Rose, and Academic Senate President, Jim Sahlman, shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board. This presentation was also shared at MJC's Accreditation Forum for the college community which was held on February 19, 2008. Dr. Rose reported that MJC completed its self-study in October 2005, which resulted in seven recommendations from ACCJC (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges). In October 2007, MJC submitted its responsive progress report and the accreditation team visited the campus in November 2007. In January 2008, the ACCJC received a letter from the US Department of Education directing ACCJC to fully implement the "two-year" rule. This rule allows an institution a maximum of two years to correct deficiencies noted in an accreditation evaluation.

In early February 2008, MJC received a letter from ACCJC placing them on probation status. ACCJC noted in that letter that Recommendations 4 and 7 were first called to the college's attention in 2000 and 2006, respectively. Therefore, MJC is required to complete its Special Report and Mid-term Report by October 2008. The Special Report will specifically address Recommendations 4 and 7. The Mid-term Report will address the seven recommendations made by ACCJC as a result of the October 2005 self-study.

Recommendation 4 recommends that the college develop a planning initiative to address issues of staffing, support services, and programs on the East and West Campuses. Recommendation 7 recommends that the college develop and implement a strategic planning process for connecting long-term programs and services planning to financial resource development, as well as to facilities, human resources, and technology planning. This also involves implementation of a short-term cyclical process that is based on data and research and that will measure institutional effectiveness.

Jim Sahlman reported that the current situation is the responsibility of all at the College and District. Faculty is charged with being actively involved in the accreditation report process and are willing to help. The Senate has cleared its agendas to focus solely on accreditation. Strategic master planning is progressing and completion is anticipated in April.

Dr. Rose and Mr. Sahlman have communicated with the local media and crafted an op-ed piece that was printed in the local paper. Students will be notified and assured that MJC's accreditation is still valid and their classes remain transferrable.

Trustee Neumann stated that unit planning and comprehensive planning takes a lot of work on the part of staff and faculty and

asked how this has been related to the Educational Master Plan

(EMP) created last year. Mr. Sahlman responded that the Strategic Plan will be the overarching plan that will link other plans together.

Chair Rojas asked for an opinion as to what the role of the Board is in this current process. Mr. Sahlman stated that the Board guides by setting policy and also in discussion of the budget planning process with administration and faculty leaders.

Trustee Hallinan is glad this process has brought MJC administrative and faculty leadership back to working together; however, he stated that there has been a shirking of responsibility at the College.

Trustee Abshire noted that this is a new time in the ACCJC accreditation standards and it provides the opportunity for leadership at MJC to work together. The Board is available to faculty and administration and must be kept informed so that information can be accurately shared with the community. MJC provides quality education and has strong staff and faculty. She will continue to recommend MJC as a first choice in higher education.

Trustee DeMartini stated that some faculty members have not been cooperative regarding Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and there has been an argumentative attitude from faculty. She stated that being put on probation is an embarrassment to the District. College faculty and administration need to work together to resolve this as soon as possible.

Trustee Dean echoed the comments and concerns of Trustee DeMartini and added that it is time to move forward in a positive manner. Jim Sahlman stated that faculty also share the sentiment of embarrassment.

Trustee Flores stated that being placed on probation is truly unfortunate as MJC has previously been recognized and acknowledged as a leader in California community colleges. She is saddened by the situation and reminded everyone that this puts our students at risk. President Rose stated that some of these issues date back to 2000. He and Jim Sahlman intend to fix the situation and are committed to getting MJC back on course.

Faculty Consultant, David Baggett, noted that the three previous studies did not coordinate college planning and did not incorporate strategies to evaluate outcomes. MJC is a fine institution with exceptional faculty and should not be on probation. He noted that faculty and administrative leadership at MJC have the right attitude to successfully overcome and implement changes.

Chancellor Darnell stated that updates on MJC's Accreditation

will be a standing item on the Board's Agenda beginning with the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Chair Rojas called for public comments. There were no comments from the public. Chair Rojas thanked Dr. Rose and Mr. Sahlman for their presentation. Chair Rojas is optimistic and is expecting a positive outcome.

15,746

NEXT MEETING

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2008. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008. Closed session will begin at 3:30 p.m. and open session at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Education Room, Manzanita Building, Columbia College, 11600 Columbia College Drive, Sonora.

Abe Rojas, Chair
YCCD Board of Trustees

D. Roe Darnell, Secretary
YCCD Board of Trustees