

MINUTES
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FIRST ADJOURNED MEETING FROM THE 542ND REGULAR MEETING
April 29, 2010

SPECIAL MEETING
Yosemite Community College District Board Room
2201 Blue Gum Avenue
Modesto, California 95352

2:15 p.m.

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Dean at 2:17 p.m.

Board Members Present	Pat Dean, Board Chair Abe Rojas Linda Flores Mike Riley Anne DeMartini
Board Members Absent	Tom Hallinan Desirree Abshire Elizabeth McMahon, Student Trustee
Others Present	R.Darnell, K. White, N. Stavrianoudakis, S. Akiona

DISCUSSION ITEM

16,204

Honorary Degrees –
California Nisei College
Diploma Project

Honorary degrees are requested as part of the California Nisei College Diploma Project, which is the implementation of Assembly Bill 37 that was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on October 11, 2009. The bill calls upon California's public colleges and universities to confer an honorary degree upon each person, living or deceased, who was forced to leave his or her postsecondary studies as a result of federal Executive Order 9066, an order which caused the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and communities, sent to remote internment camps, and denied all constitutional rights. Sixty-two percent of these men, women and children were American-born citizens who were "Nisei" (second generation) or "Sansei" (third generation) Japanese Americans. It is estimated that more than 1,200 of the affected Nisei were community college students and that at least 28 of them attended Modesto Junior College. The honorary degrees provide MJC the opportunity to recognize the great injustice done to our former students. There will be 28 chairs on display, most of them empty, at the Commencement Ceremony on April 30, 2010, in honor of the MJC students who had their educations and their lives disrupted, acknowledging in this small way, the unfairness and discrimination they suffered.

Chair Pat Dean read the recommendation and stated the honorary degree project was discussed at the last Board Meeting. Trustee Rojas asked why Board approval was needed. Chancellor Darnell answered that the District's Honorary Degree procedure limits the Board to recommend no more than one nominee per year, but in this case following the procedure would not be appropriate given the intent of the Legislature and in the interest of time. Trustee DeMartini asked if the Academic Senate had been consulted. The Chancellor answered yes. Interim President Ken White mentioned that Joseph Haratani, and the sister of Nobu Yamasaki (deceased) will be in attendance. They reside in Sonora. He added that if more students are identified in the future that MJC will bring forth their names to the Board to request Honorary Degrees.

A motion was made by Trustee Rojas and seconded by Trustee Flores that the Board of Trustees confers Honorary Degrees upon the following individuals, honoring the intent of the California Nisei College Diploma Project:

Martha Tsuchiya (deceased)
Joseph Haratani
Nobu Yamasaki (deceased)
Ben Kuraya (deceased)
Yaekeo Yamate (deceased)
Ida Ikue Nakashima Schneck
Violet M. Kumimoto
May Kawahara Sakaguchi (deceased)
Yeichi Sakaguichi

The Motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Chair Dean expressed thanks to Interim President Ken White for following through with this honorary degree program.

16,205

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. Closed Session will begin at 3:30 p.m. Open Session is at 5:30p.m., Yosemite Community College District, District Board Room, 2201 Blue Gum Avenue, Modesto, California.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Pat Dean, Chair
YCCD Board of Trustees

D. Roe Darnell, Secretary
YCCD Board of Trustees