BCCFA Representative Assembly

Minutes of Meeting of September 24, 2009 (in C-314)

Members Present: April Adams; Andrew Baddish; James Bumgardner; Joan Cohen; George Cronk; George Ebhardt; Paul Eckstein (Alternate); Robert Fusco; Fred Golub; Adam Goodell; William Jiang; Lawrence Joel; Shawn Kane; David Kramer; Lenore Lerer; Catherine Malone (Alternate); Mauro Marzocco; McGovern (Alternate); Bill Morales; Ed Novak; Jeanie Payne; Donald Reilly; Lynne Richardson; Fran Ruff; Francis Schmidt; Linda Seidman; Joseph Sivo; Y. David Wang; Marj Webster; Paul Wolfe

BCCFA Executive Committee Officers Tobyn De Marco, Vice President; Alan Kaufman, Secretary; Laurie Hodge, Treasurer; Donald Reilly, RA Chair

1. Call to Order: 12:30 PM.


3. Election of RA Chair for 2009-2010. George Cronk announced that he would not stand for re-election. Donald Reilly was nominated. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed. Joan Cohen, Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee, directed the BCCFA Secretary, Alan Kaufman, to enter one vote for Don Reilly, the new Chair of the Representative Assembly.

4. Report of Treasurer. Laurie Hodge presented a report on the Association's finances, including the proposed Budget for 2009-2010. Following brief discussion, the Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote without objection.

5. Alan Kaufman requested a temporary suspension of the agenda in order to discuss the college administration's recent harassment of BCCFA President, Peter Helff. His request was granted without objection. The matter was reviewed and discussed briefly. Various concerns were raised and calls for action were voiced. It was generally understood that the BCCFA Executive Committee, in conjunction with the NJEA, would pursue all appropriate legal and other remedies in response to the college administration's efforts.

6. Committee reports: Report from the NJEA Congressional Contact Committee (Paul Eckstein). Paul Eckstein distributed materials from the NJEA Congressional Contact Committee. The
NJEA is calling on its members to lobby Senators Melendez and Lautenberg to push for a better health care reform that embodied in the "Baucus Framework." Details were contained in the materials distributed by Eckstein.

7. Old (or Continuing) Business:
   a. Capstone Sabbaticals. Brief comments by Tobyn De Marco and others. De Marco advised members to consult with an officer of the Executive Committee before filing for retirement.

   b. Governance issues. Brief remarks by Alan Kaufman and others.

   c. Academic Advisement program. Brief comments by Tobyn De Marco and others. Any member who undergoes training for the new advising programs should apply those training hours to the fourteen-hour requirement. The Executive Committee recommends that members log their hours for this semester and next.

8. New Business:

   b. Administration’s obstructionist tactics. Said tactics were itemized and briefly discussed by various RA members.

   c. Don Reilly and others noted that RA reps should touch base with their new faculty constituents and also report back to their entire constituencies.

   d. Recent MOAs and MOUs. Brief report by Tobyn De Marco who explained the difference between MOAs and MOUs. The MOA defines the parameters of and compensation for a position and becomes an addendum to the contract while an MOU applies to an individual who requires a small exception to the contract. Joan Cohen requested that MOAs be distributed more widely to relevant members of the BCCFA, a suggestion the Executive Committee will discuss at its next meeting.

   e. A new system for MOUs and MOAs. Brief report by Tobyn De Marco.

   f. Distance Learning discussions/negotiations – update. George Cronk reported on recent – very positive – developments. Significant progress has been made in the discussions/negotiations between the BCCFA/Faculty Senate Joint Committee on Distance Learning and the college administration (P. Dlugos, G. Porter, E. Pittarelli, and J. Miller). Details will be announced to the faculty in coming weeks (and months).

   g. Moves in the Student Services Division. Various degrees of puzzlement were expressed by various members of the RA.

9. Adjournment: 1:25 PM.

Pursuant to the BYLAWS of the BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY ASSOCIATION, Article I, Section 4.