California State University, East Bay
Concord Campus Advisory Committee

Minutes of April 7, 2008

Members Present:  E. Brizendine (Executive Director), J. Davenport, C. Fong, S. Green, N. Howard (Chair), S. Philibosian, D. Wiley, E. Woodard, M. Zaeem
Members Absent:  C. Coulman, K Reed (replaced by J Davenport), R. Vrmeer
Guests:  M. Leung

1. Approval of Agenda:

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 28, 2008 The minutes were approved, (Green/Wiley).

3. Report of the Executive Director: Brizendine welcomed to the Committee Joan Davenport, who replaces Kate Reed as the member from CEAS. She showed her appreciation for Associate Director Wiley’s memo that summarizes course scheduling issues at the Concord Campus. She appreciated the ongoing difficulty in developing program “roadmaps” for two year programs at Concord. Hopefully we can network with Associate Deans in the colleges to initially support necessary courses at Concord that nevertheless have an initial low enrollment. It must be noted that we have been receiving funding for programs, such as that in Nursing, that show the evident promise of growth. Yet many other programs languish with inadequate course offerings and which are taught primarily by adjunct faculty. Some kind of weighted formula needs to be developed to encourage colleges to offer more courses at Concord, especially those that are part of the upper division general education program. It might be possible to have a college make a three year commitment of funding for a new program at Concord. After three years, if the program shows growth, the college can take over full responsibility for funding. This approach would of course require that sufficient research was done to determine that there is local demand for courses in a given program. The ultimate goal is that all 10 programs offered at Concord will be self supporting.

YMCA Project: Brizendine reported that this long standing proposal is now in the hands of Shaun Bibb and the Contracting Office. The timeline is flexible and an exact location has not been chosen. The YMCA facility would include recreational facilities, child care and possibly a coffee shop. Students might be eligible for a discounted membership.

Student Life: Mansoora Zaeem has been hired as a paid ASI Student Campus Coordinator for the Concord Campus. Some of the activities she will be planning include Movie nights (already scheduled); a Multicultural Day (May, 2008), yet to be scheduled; and band performances in the early evening. Students will be notified of events by mass emails, the Concord Campus website and the Student Life electronic newsletter.
Commencement: This will take place at 9:30 AM on June 14th. All staff will be asked to assist at Commencement.

Campus Union Construction Project: The contract for the renovation of the Concord Campus Union has been cancelled. The union will not be under construction this summer. Future work will be deferred until later and will be done in-house. Brizendine will meet later this week about the union project.

Report of the Associate Donna Wiley: Wiley reported that 24 students are currently planning to enroll as pre nursing students in Fall, 2008. Students will need to arrive for Commencement by 8 am to ensure that everything runs smoothly. There will be both a Distinguished Faculty and a Distinguished Student Award presented at the ceremony.

Advising: As noted in the previous minutes all major advising will be handled by departmental faculty. Students have resisted using faculty advisors since they have appreciated the “one stop” approach of our staff advisors, but staff advisors will now handle only GE. It is crucial that we now have departmental faculty advisors who are trained to do advising, especially if they are new faculty. Pre-nursing students will get GE advising from the General Studies staff.

Road Maps: These two year agreements with departments represented at Concord are still a work in progress. They have also been discussed in the February minutes. We are heartened that the BS in Psychology has now been replaced by an BA, which is easier to complete at Concord as well as being more flexible in what courses are required.

4. Introduction of Dean Leung and discussion of the College of Science at Concord: The Dean met with the Committee who engaged him in a wide ranging discussion of COS issues at Concord. Some of the major issues discussed are in the agenda that follows:

- Discussion of the B-6 GE upper division requirement: Crucial to enabling a realistic time to graduation experience for Concord students is the need for more than one course that meets the B-6 requirement. Currently only Psychology 3420, Stress and Coping, meets this requirement. We need to work with COS to find faculty who are willing to teach other B-6 courses at Concord. In expanding B-6 offerings we need to consider courses in both Physics and Chemistry that meet this need. We need to find a good time to sit down with departments in COS and decide what B-6 courses can be offered out here. Ideally we should have a menu of courses that don’t conflict with other courses students need to take. It was suggested we ask students themselves which courses they would like to take. We need to take into consideration student schedules. We need also to consider the low enrollment cap requirement in Psychology courses and schedule more sections. We also need to encourage tenure track Psychology faculty to teach at Concord. Currently only adjunct faculty teach Psych courses out here. Dean Leung suggested that a new tenure track Psychology faculty member, Dan Cerruti, might be useful to us as an advisor.
Scheduling Science Courses for liberal studies majors: We need to remember that only tenure track and tenured faculty can advise students, in part because lecturers are normally not given assigned time for advising. Advising is crucial to enabling liberal studies students to select science courses that will enable them to complete their B-6 requirement. However, getting tenure track science faculty to teach at Concord is complicated by the fact that junior faculty are engaged in research, primarily at Hayward, that prevents them from teaching at Concord. Ultimately, what continues to be required is some risk taking in offering needed courses with the expectation that enrollment will grow. These will be subsidized and initially taught by adjunct faculty until which time a critical mass of enrollment is achieved and tenure track faculty are assigned to the course. We are also hopeful that liberal studies students can take some of their science requirements, such as biology and chemistry at the community college level. Los Medanos College will be opening a new science building in the Fall of 2008 and will be able to offer additional lower division science courses. However both Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College have been forced to cut some classes in the wake of the loss of Proposition 92. Davenport asked if we could get some dispensation to offer lower division science courses to potential credential majors. Dean Leung suggested we consider which required science courses might be offered online. It was also mentioned that some Nursing students at Concord are forced to return to Diablo Valley College for science courses. This poses a scheduling problem for them as DVC is on the semester system.

Health Sciences Major: possibilities at Concord: There was not a significant discussion of this agenda item. It has been assumed that with Nursing now at Concord, the Health Sciences major will soon follow.

Long term vision for professional programs in the sciences at Concord:

Concord Strategic Plan: the call for professional programs: Programs in Health Science and Environmental Science were discussed. Dean Leung is hopeful that if the pre-nursing program works out, we might offer Health Science courses. Programs in Environmental Policy, Green Technology (a certificate program now going through the Senate) and Engineering Management were suggested at the Concord location.

Environmental Science revisions—status updates: Dean Leung sees a concern in offering Environmental Science classes at Concord; the expensive instrumentation involved. Zaeem noted the large number of environmental firms located in the Contra Costa area as a reason for offering the Environmental Science degree at Concord. Could there be an alternative focus for the degree? It was suggested that perhaps the Geography Department could partner with Earth and Environmental Science to develop a degree that was less instrumentation dependent. An example could be a 2 + 2 program partnered with Ohlone College in Fremont. Other possibilities include an Environmental Policy certificate. Local companies could possibly subsidize labs, tuition, etc.

5. Discussion of faculty experience at Concord: Due to the lateness of the hour, this agenda topic is to be deferred to the next meeting. We will try to invite Dan Cerruti, Psychology Department to the next meeting.
6. Preliminary discussion on preparation of CCAC Annual Report: Since the Senate has asked the Chair to provide an annual report in two weeks, she asked Committee members to assist her with content.

Adjournment: 6 pm

Respectfully submitted

Steve Philibosian, Secretary