

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Division
Unapproved Minutes
September 2, 2009
Meloland Research Station

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Kalin, Hugh Kissick, Tommy Mills

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Walter Britschgi, Johnny Esquer, Steven Finnell, Ed Fonda, Ed Hale, Daniel Poloni, Antonio Rivera, Bo Shropshire, Ralph Strahm, Nancy Wade

STAFF PRESENT

Pat Pauley, Steve Burch, David Bradshaw, Ofelia Duarte

GUESTS

Curtis Pate, John Lau, Candace Nelson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for July 1, 2009 were approved unanimously. **M/S/C H. Kissick/T. Mills**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Requirement changes for A.S. Degree-Reduction in Credits Required (P. Pauley)

P. Pauley stated that the board needs to elect a chairman, excluding IVC faculty, for this year. He welcomed and introduced John Lau, VP for Business Services.

P. Pauley met with Lianna Zhao, SME Division Chair and Carol Lee, Transfer Center Director to discuss reducing number of credits required to award an Associate Degree. The idea proposed by C. Lee is to offer a less inclusive core, award the associate and have ancillary groups of two or three classes for a related certificate. S. Burch feels that cutting credits would short change the student. Employers will pick someone with an AS over someone with a Tech. Certificate. If a student receives an associate degree and goes on to Pomona and transfers what they took, there's going to be a gap. Not a true transfer. P. Pauley stated that although a Tech Certificate has all of the core courses an AS has all the core courses plus other GE classes. This proposal has its positive and negative. **Positive** – By offering less courses enrollment rate would be higher. **Negative** - Cutting out basically half of what other institutions require would put IVC students at a disadvantage because an industry representative looking at transcripts would see the difference. It was the consensus of the board to pattern course requirements after Cal Poly or others in order to be competitive with other Junior Colleges. P. Pauley feels that in order to provide best service we need to focus on transferability courses that they'll be able to take to a four year.

REPORTS

OTHER

J. Lau asked if the topic for this discussion was to attract and encourage higher enrollment. He asked if curriculum was modern enough to attract students. He stated that given the college's financial status, a business plan needs to be created in order to justify Ag's low enrollment. P. Pauley mentioned that Ag enrollment was up and would like to request an extension on the original three year commitment that's coming up. H. Kissick supports Dr. Pauley's efforts. He also mentioned that at one time IVC had a very successful Ag program. Program had 7-8 instructors. In order to promote the Ag program, counselors need to be more involved. A. Kalin stated that Calexico FFA has approximately 400 students. P. Pauley contacted several colleges and just in the L.A. metro area they have over 2100 Ag students. El Capitan has approximately 450. H. Kissick stated that due to bad economic times students are opting to stay here. High School teachers can now send their FFA students to IVC. J. Lau will inform Dr. Gould of the potential for growth based on H.S. enrollment in FFA.

J. Lau apologized to the board for miscommunication regarding the Tessera Solar project. Plan is to utilize 15 acres of the West side of the field that is currently being farmed by the Ag department. He also stated that he or Dr. Gould would be attending the Ag meetings in order to keep the lines of communication open. He asked that instead of gearing to raise money to focus on the land available as an educational component. P. Pauley stated that the field was used as an educational component as well as to generate some revenue to offer scholarships. He asked if solar project could be moved to East side. J. Lau said that to run solar on the east side would be too expensive. He also stated that the college would be willing to absorb the cost of running water in order for the Ag program to be successful. P. Pauley reminded him that putting in a new head ditch would cost \$100,000 and he could probably purchase farm land for less. J. Lau has been looking into acquiring land to move the Ag program. He feels that by having something more permanent would give the Ag program stability. A. Kalin stated that when farmers donate land they can get a tax credit. P. Pauley mentioned that W. Britschgi had identified a 70 acre parcel approximately ½ mile from the school that is available. T. Mills suggests contacting Wes Gro (across the street to the East) and offer twice of farm lands worth based on ½ cash, ½ which they can write off as a donation. J. Lau requested that a couple members from this committee work with him to explore all options that were brought up and create a short and long term finance plan. He asked the members present if they would be willing to use part of the seed monies for land acquisition. Members agreed to use ½ of the seed money and the rest for operational start up costs. J. Lau suggests board make a recommendation letter to use as a starting point for discussion of an action plan. P. Pauley asked for a volunteer to write letter. C. Pate hand wrote the letter and read it to the board. Motion was made to accept letter and present to J. Lau. **M/S/C H. Kissick/T. Mills** J. Lau requested that letter be typed so O. Duarte will type letter and contact H. Kissick to pick up. Once J. Lau receives letter he will set up meeting with Dr. Gould and would like representatives from this committee as spokesmen for the program. J. Lau emphasized the he is not making any promises, that the president and the board make the final decision.

P. Pauley stated that his vision is to continue building enrollment, get program where he can offer associates in Agronomy, Animal Science and Ag Business and to find permanent home for the Ag in order to continue with original plan. He acknowledged the support he received from administration and industry when he first started.

P. Pauley asked J. Lau if Stirling Solar would be interested in donating to the Ag club. J. Lau will ask.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Meloland Research Station

Cc: Lianna Zhao

*October 7, 2009
Recorder: Ofelia Duarte*