

Ms. Laura Weaver
Ms. Barbara Yesnosky

Recording Secretary: Ms. Mary Hargiss

Others Present : Mr. Michael Absher, President, Chabot College Faculty Senate
Ms. Rachel Maldonado-Aziminia
Ms. Patrice Diaz
Mr. Sudharsan Dwaraknath
Dr. Susan Hiraki
Ms. Barbara Morrissey, Las Positas College Faculty Senate
Ms. Theresa Pedrosa
Ms. Sylvia Ramirez
Ms. Sally Stickney
Ms. Rachel Ugale, President, Chabot College Classified Senate
Dr. Jeanne Wilson

PLEDGE TO FLAG

President Gelles opened the meeting and asked Mr. Vecchiarelli to lead the pledge to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments offered at this meeting.

PRESENTATION: EXTENDED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (EOPS)

Dr. Barberena introduced the presenters Ms. Rachel Maldonado-Aziminia and Dr. Susan Hiraki, Coordinators of EOPS Programs at Chabot College and Las Positas College respectively. She reported that the presenters will give the history and achievements of the program in its 40th anniversary of the EOPS Program (1969 - 2009).

Ms. Aziminia called attention to the Faculty Senate resolution adopted in July, 2009 recognizing the contributions of EOPS. EOPS was established in 1969 to initiate access and retention efforts for first-generation, low-income, educationally disadvantaged, and historically underrepresented students. Ms. Aziminia highlighted the following points:

- EOPS has served over 2.5 million students in the 40 years of its existence;
- 160,000 of those 2.5 million were single parents through the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education Program (CARE), which is a program for single parents who either are themselves and their children on welfare or just their children are on welfare.

Dr. Hiraki gave a brief history of EOPS and an explanation for the basis of their logo which signifies a belief in potential, which is what they try to instill in their students.

Ms. Aziminia reported that EOPS was instituted at Chabot College in 1970 with 20 students and at Las Positas College in 1990 with 20 students. It was reported that all 110 community colleges in California offer EOPS services.

Ms. Aziminia introduced Dr. Jeanne Wilson, the new Coordinator for EOPS at Chabot College, as well as other EOPS staff members in attendance, Sylvia Ramirez and Patrice Diaz. She also acknowledged Art Barboza and Michael Booker who were unable to attend. She also introduced CalWorks staff members Sally Stickney and Michelle Iriarte.

Chabot and Las Positas Colleges provide the following services through EOPS:

- Academic, Career, Personal Counseling
- Book grants/services
- Priority Registration
- Transportation
- Meal tickets
- Over and above tutorial and counseling services
- CARE services for single parents
- Over and above psychological counseling (LPC)

Dr. Hiraki reported the success of the program with Chabot College serving 479 students and Las Positas College serving 263 students in 2008-09. She reported that the transfer rates respectively are 45 and 53 and may be slightly higher.

Ms. Aziminia reported that in 2009-10 the program had a 30% cut in funds: at Chabot College from \$739,709 in 2008-09 to \$493,217 in 2009-10; and at Las Positas College from \$269,165 in 2008-09 to \$179,406 in 2009-10. There have been discussions of further cuts. She reported that she believes in the program and what it has accomplished. She is hopeful the Board will continue to support the continuation of the funding of the program and asked the Board to advocate for the program.

Dr. Hiraki spoke of the retention services the program offers, which is at the heart and core of EOPS and CARE. She reported that they are trying to get their students to matriculate as comfortably as possible. She thanked College Administrators for the support given to be creative and to have opportunity to develop the types of retention services that speak to their particular population on the campuses.

The presenters highlighted individuals who have been successful in the programs and have been successful after completing the programs.

On behalf of the Board, President Gelles thanked the presenters.

Dr. Cedillo questioned Mr. Legaspi about the cuts for 2009-10, especially in categorical programs. Mr. Legaspi reported there is a proposal in the Governor's Budget to cut EOPS by \$10 million statewide, or 10%. In addition, ARRA, which was a one-time backfill from the federal government, will not be available. Mr. Legaspi reported that the proposal transfers the EOPS monies to augment Career Technical Education (CTE).

Dr. Cedillo noted that the population for which EOPS was established is first-generation, low-income, educationally disadvantaged, and historically underrepresented students (as noted in the resolution). He reported that he is a product of EOPS. He voiced that the students for which community colleges were made are at the brunt of these cuts. As a Board we have to make some very serious decisions and he would hope that cuts are not in this area. He also stressed the importance of advocacy both at the state and federal levels.

Dr. Mertes thanked the presenters for their presentation as well as the presentation handout and noted that they should be very proud of the program.

Mrs. Dvorsky noted the presentation was very impressive and both presenters should be commended for the time, energy and heart they have put into the program. It is very obvious that they are proud of their students and what has been accomplished. She reiterated Dr. Cedillo's comments that we have to remember who we serve.

Mr. Vecchiarelli has always had the greatest respect for the EOPS Program, noting that he has known many students who have been helped by the program. He also recognized the dedicated staff members.

Dr. Gin recognized Ms. Matsuda, the "mother" of the program at Chabot College and Dr. Hiraki at Las Positas College. He commented about the high number of non-persisters and questioned if there was a way of saving those individuals. Ms. Aziminia noted that the program deals with first-generation college students, low income, many who are foster youths, and there is just a lot of forces outside the walls of Chabot College. It is something

that they are looking at to try to increase the persistency rate. She noted that some do come back to the Colleges, which isn't always reflected in the statistics. Dr. Hiraki added that it isn't exactly a straight line, the students may drop out and come back many times. She is seeing second and third generation students now from the same families. Somehow it trickles down that college is an option. We have to keep listening to our students to be able to advocate for them and to be able to help them with what really resonates for them when we are talking about persistence.

Dr. Gin noted that one of the beauties of a community college is that it looks at a person for their potential and we have met them based on their potential. Whereas four year or private institutions look at what you have already achieved. He supports Dr. Cedillo's comments that we cannot jeopardize this program by cutting funds.

Mr. Dwaraknath reported that he knows students that have benefited from the EOPS Program at Las Positas College. Perhaps in their history they had many challenges in life and today they have become the type of charismatic individuals that would carry on the spirit of EOPS' work.

In Dr. Pollard's absence, Dr. Luster thanked Ms. Aziminia and Dr. Hiraki for their presentations. She voiced that what is really difficult is that research shows that EOPS works and is successful. She noted that when you see a budget that says cut funds from a program that works, we are put in an enviable position of fighting with one another over resources. It is not as though EOPS students aren't in Career Tech Programs, so to see that as seemingly a good move is counter-intuitive. She recognized the incredible work of EOPS staff to connect with their students. She is hopeful that the voices that have received so much from EOPS will be ignited statewide.

Chancellor Kinnamon thanked the presenters. He noted that our employees and Trustees are educators who are very knowledgeable and have first-hand experience as first generation students themselves or with those that come across their paths needing our assistance. He specifically acknowledged the presenters and their staffs who from day to day are dealing with individuals that are struggling and are tapping them emotionally, spiritually, and in every way possible, and that is a unique calling.

Dr. Barberena noted it is people that make the difference and make the programs. The reason EOPS is successful is because many of the individuals have gone through the experiences that the students have gone through. We always manage to select or employ those who through the interview process appeal to our hearts with their stories of survival and endurance. That is why their counsel is so valued. Her first job as an administrator at a community college was as Director of EOPS, noting the program is very near and dear to her heart.

The Chancellor was presented with 40th anniversary posters which featured former Chabot College and Las Positas College EOPS students.

President Gelles commented that this Board has dedicated itself to working on behalf of students. He noted that EOPS does an outstanding job and does nothing but care.

Mr. Gelles reported that the Board toured the Dental Clinic prior to the Board Meeting. One of the things that caught him was not the fact that we remodeled the Dental Clinic, but that we had low income students coming in for care and the instructor told the Board that the students paid for the minimal care but they couldn't afford the minimum dollar amount. That speaks to what the EOPS staff does. He was a counselor in his prior life and there is nothing more rewarding than to wake up in the morning and care about what you do. He stressed that this Board is dedicated to staying away from cutting programs that serve the students. The Board will do everything it can as they "massage" the Budget in the interest of all, especially those that need it the most.

Mr. Legaspi reported that when it comes to budget advocacy during this budget season, it is stories like the ones heard tonight that the Governor and Legislators need to hear.

ADJOURNMENT

By motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office.

Minutes prepared by:

Beverly Bailey

Secretary, Board of Trustees
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District