

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Members present: President Suzuki, Ms. Albro, Dr. Ambroson, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Berman, Mr. Carmona, Ms. Farris, Mr. Fremont, Ms. Martin, Dr. Ochoa, Dr. Ollenburger, Dr. Soriano, Mr. Storey, Dr. Tillman, Ms. Thomas, Dr. Turk

Welcome and Introductions

President Suzuki welcomed the group and asked the members to introduce themselves. The President indicated that he expected each member to represent his/her constituency but also hoped that every member would look at issues from a University-wide perspective. He expressed his hope that Cabinet members would report to their constituencies issues discussed at these meetings, obtain their feedback and report back to the Cabinet if necessary.

Cabinet members may submit suggested agenda items via e-mail to Anita Martin at least 10 days prior to a Cabinet meeting. The president asked that agenda items focus on major, University-wide issues having a long-term impact. Agenda items should be of such significance that all members can provide input and information

The President reiterated that the Cabinet is advisory to the President and is not a decision making body; however, in making decisions, the President will take into consideration the advice given by this body. Donna Tillman asked that if the Cabinet does not make decisions, then what is the decision-making body. The President responded that there is no other decision-making body. He indicated that all University-wide committees are advisory to the President, just as the Cabinet has been in the past.

Strategic Planning

The President indicated that based on feedback received regarding the budget process and the WASC self-study, it may be time to develop a more specific strategic plan to establish priorities more easily.

Jane Ollenburger and Pat Farris agreed that a plan needs to be developed in order to guide both the budget and the planning processes. Dr. Ambroson asked that this matter be discussed with the deans since his department has been given a specific set of instructions with regard to strategic planning that do not coincide with what is being discussed here. He also suggested that instructions be clear as to what is required from departments. Dr. Tillman reported that businesses are getting away from strategic planning and she did not think another round would be well received on the campus.

There followed discussion about the possibility of developing an academic master plan, as was discussed at the last Cabinet and Deans Retreat. Dr. Ollenburger reported that she has seen plans from some universities that are a combination of a strategic plan and an academic plan. She offered to review these plans and report back to the Cabinet with a set of strategies that could be used by this campus.

Improving Communications

Dr. Esteban Soriano distributed a handout entitled “Improving Communication at Cal Poly Pomona: Steps to Enhance Outreach, Feedback, Inclusion.” He reviewed the material with the Cabinet and a discussion followed with suggestions as to how the campus can improve communications with students, faculty and staff as well as with outside constituencies. It is planned to develop an electronic newsletter (daily or weekly), a “CPP Alert” to provide immediate information to the campus community, a “Communique” newsletter to present views and perspectives from the President and the Cabinet, and the implementation of “Input Cards” both printed and electronic, for people to ask questions, request clarifications, and make suggestions. Ms. Christine Thomas commented that many campus employees have no access to e-mail and that we need to keep that in mind when we consider how we will communicate with the campus. Mr. Arturo Carmona indicated that he thought the best way to reach students was still by mail.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of video streaming the Cabinet meetings and other meetings of campus groups.

Improving Student Retention

Mr. Carmona and Dr. Laraine Turk led the discussion of this item. While our student retention rates are good, we hope to be able to improve them. We have two excellent college based programs that can be used as models for other colleges on campus. Most critical at this time is the selection of the right person to coordinate the Educational Equity/Retention Program.

Concern about the implementation of E.O. 665 was expressed. Dr. Ollenburger indicated that she was in the process of reviewing this issue and would be reporting on her findings within the next couple of weeks.

Negotiations with Foothill Transit

President Suzuki gave a history of our relationship with Foothill Transit and the transfer center that has been established on campus. The agreement was originally reached in the hope that better bus service would be provided for the campus community. However, our roads are in desperate need of repair due to the number of busses traveling through the campus and Foothill has been unwilling to provide any funding for the repairs.

Following a meeting with the Foothill Transit Board of Directors last week, two task forces will be created to develop an interim Memorandum of Understanding with Foothill

that is more specific in nature, and to look at ways in which to obtain funding to repair the roads. We will also look at ways in which to obtain greater discounts for our riders and other incentives to encourage bus ridership.

One-Minute Items

Dr. Edwin Barnes brought the Cabinet up to date on the rail traffic problem at Temple Avenue and Valley Blvd. One possible solution is the realignment of rail line through campus agricultural property.

Ms. Donna Albro announced that we are celebrating “Campus Week of Dialogue” and invited Cabinet members to attend the October 12, 6 p.m., program for victims of hate crimes. The program will be held in University Park.

Mr. Ron Fremont announced that University Olympian Kim Rhode will be visiting the campus on Friday at lunch. There will be a brief ceremony at University Plaza.

Dr. Turk announced that a section Eucalyptus Lane will be closed beginning Monday, October 16, 2000, due to the University Union expansion project.

Dr. Ollenburger informed the Cabinet that she had sent an e-mail to all faculty concerning FMI’s. Responses regarding the changes to the process are running 12-1 in favor of them.

Ms. Farris announced that the Vending Room in the CLA Building is being moved to the area near Elevator C.

Dr. Ambrosion announced that if any Cabinet member has an interest in meeting with the University Council of Chairs to please let him know and he will poll the chairs.

Mr. Paul Storey announced that the Foundation has instituted a new public relations policy that is in conformance with CSU regulations.

He also announced there will be a grand opening of Panda Express on campus on November 7.

Dr. Tillman asked that the resolution by the United Students Against Sweatshops be an agenda item for the next Cabinet meeting. President Suzuki indicated this matter should first go to the Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Carmona distributed a copy of a letter to President Suzuki regarding ASI Senate Resolution 99-00 which asked that the university adopt a code of conduct with respect to merchandise produced in so-called sweatshops.

The next meeting of the President's Cabinet will be held in the President's Conference Room on **Tuesday, November 7, 2000, at 2 p.m.**