

Santa Monica College  
Collegewide Benefits Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 27, 2005

Present

Sandi Burnett, Co-Chair  
Lenore Banders  
Al DeSalles  
Peter Geltner  
John Gonzales  
Jeanette Goolsby  
Mitra Moassessi  
Ana Rojas

Absent

Pat Brown, Co-Chair

Committee Assistants

Letty Kilian, Staff Assistant  
Mimi Vaval, Resource Staff Assistant

Co-Chair Sandi Burnett opened the meeting at 2:35 p.m. and announced that Reagan Romali and Peggy Rhoads are no longer able to serve and John Gonzales and Ana Rojas are their replacement representatives. Co-Chair Burnett asked the committee to review the April 6 and April 20 minutes.

April 6, 2005 Minutes (As amended per Peter Geltner's request)

Motion was made by Peter Geltner and seconded by Mitra Moassessi to approve the minutes of April 6, 2005 as follows:

Motion was made by Peter Geltner and seconded by Peggy Rhoads that if we join with LACCD and a cap is brought up, the district ~~hire~~ obtain a ~~writer~~ rider to increase the cap to a substantial amount before taking it to the ~~faculty~~ college employees for a vote.

*Unanimously approved as amended.*

April 20, 2005 Minutes (As amended per Al DeSalle's request)

Motion was made by Peter Geltner and seconded by Mitra Moassessi to approve the minutes of April 20, 2005 as follows:

Committee member Mitra Moassessi requested that the minutes reflect the growing concern that the committee is running out of time in making a recommendation to the District and the collective bargaining unit before the Memorial Day holiday. There has been no ~~directive~~ report from the Administration to move forward. ~~and the committee has received no conclusive reports.~~

*Unanimously approved as amended.*

Reports and Discussion

**Superintendent's Report on LACCD's Response** - Al DeSalles reported that discussions were taking place between the Interim Superintendent and LACCD's representatives regarding Santa Monica College joining their benefits pool.

**Benefits Audit Method** - Santa Monica College's financial statement of last June's audit, showed that the District had account reconciliation problems with \$523,000. Expenditures included payment of employees who no longer were eligible for benefits. Co-Chair Burnett reviewed the Health and Welfare Random Audit implemented by the UC and suggested that the committee strongly consider looking into implementing the audit at SMC.

**Benefits Survey** - The Collegewide Benefits Committee's website launch date was set for Monday, May 2, 2005. Four "Health Benefits Alert" announcements will be made by each of the college constituency groups announcing the committee's website and Employee Benefits Survey. The announcement should include a message that if the survey is not accessible on-line, hard copies of the survey may be obtained from the Health Office. It is important that redundant sources of distribution be made in an effort to maximize the Collegewide Benefits website and to encourage maximum employee participation.

Al DeSalles reported that a new issue of the website which will include Employee Benefits Survey, the *LA Times* citation and subscription link, and the most recent minutes will be posted on the committee's website.

**LARISA Benefits Findings**

- They represent themselves as a JPA
- A premium will be based on the plan that is chosen
- It appears that Maternity Care is not available under the PPO
- LARISA's life insurance premium is higher than SMC's
- They administer our current Vision and Dental plans and, therefore, probably have our current census data.

The committee does not feel it has the level of expertise in pursuing further information without a consultant.

**Retirement Benefit Costs Breakdown** - A report was not available.

Motion was made by Mitra Moassessi and seconded by Peter Geltner to hire Fickewirth & Associates.

Ayes: 7  
Noes: 0  
Abstentions: 1

There was discussion and general consensus was reached to have Co-Chairs Sandi Burnett and Pat Brown meet with the Interim Superintendent to discuss the committee's decision to hire Fickewirth & Associates and to explore the feasibility of a benefits audit at SMC.

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Superintendent's report on LACCD's Response
- Co-Chairs Report on Meeting with the Interim Superintendent
- Retiree Benefit Cost Breakdown
- Website Feedback

- Review Current Policy, including use of SMC's Address for all enrolling with CalPERS PPO

Adjournment 4:07 p.m.

The next meeting of the Collegewide Benefits Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 Business 111 (B-111). Please note location change.