

Santa Monica College  
**Collegewide Benefits Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**February 23, 2005**

Present

Sandi Burnett, Co-chair  
Lenore Banders  
Al DeSalles  
Peter Geltner  
Mitra Moassessi  
Peggy Rhoads  
Reagan Romali

Absent

Pat Brown, Co-chair

Committee Assistants

Letty Kilian, Staff Assistant  
Mimi Vaval, Resource Staff Assistant

Co-chair Sandi Burnett opened the meeting at 2:37 p.m. and asked the committee to review the February 9 and February 16 minutes.

Approval of February 9, 2005 Minutes

Motion was made by Peter Geltner and seconded by Mitra Moassessi to approve the minutes of February 9, 2005 as amended. *Unanimously approved.*

Approval of February 16, 2005 Minutes (As amended per Mitra Moassessi's request)

Motion was made by Mitra Moassessi and seconded by Al DeSalles to approve the minutes of February 16, 2005 as follows.

Reports and Discussion

**Fiscal Information** – Review of the Health and Welfare Benefits Budget and Retiree's Health and Welfare Benefits for 2004-05. It was noted that the 2004-2005 Adopted Budget is actually higher because the figures are projected and do ~~not~~ include positions that have not been filled.

Discussion Items

PERS is enforcing the rules for those who are eligible for Medicare Plan "~~B~~" "A", and this allows the college to save money.

Ayes: 5

Abstention: 2

Reports and Discussion

**Out of State Employees**

- It was reported by Resource Staff Assistant Mimi Vaval that the procedure for deleting members due to separation is upon formal receipt of separation document.

- Two of the out-of-state employees were listed on the STRS active group when they should have been in the retired group.
- The third out-of-state employee lives in California part of the year and out of state the other part of the year.
- The fourth out-of-state employee had been listed on voluntary paid leave but did not notify the college of her return. As a result, she continued to show as an out-of-state employee.

This generated some discussion that since the college is billed regionally the committee might consider creating a policy for limited benefits registration at the college. It was asked if it was possible to encourage the faculty and classified staff to use the Santa Monica College address in an effort to save money for the college. Mimi Vaval said that this is done on a voluntary basis. She added that on a yearly basis the Benefits Office sent out a college-wide e-mail asking the college community to report any changes to their personal status.

**Website** – Three models of the front-page design were presented to the Committee. The third model of the front-page design was selected. The purpose of the website will to provide the following.

- The purpose of the website will be to disseminate information to the college of the committee's proposed plans, what it is currently reviewing and its findings;
- To inform the college of the Collegewide Benefits Committee existence;
- To post the committee's minutes and agendas;
- To post the Faculty Association/District Memorandum of Understanding for the Collegewide Committee;
- A summary page with links to the website of the medical benefits programs;
- A survey in which the college community can participate providing the committee with important information in its goal to contain the cost of the District's health benefits without compromising the quality;
- For those without e-mail access, a print version of the survey would be made available;
- The managers will be made aware that they must inform their employees of the survey and to look for information posted on bulleting boards in prominent locations throughout the college;
- Retirees will also need to be targeted with a mail announcement;
- Mimi will request a disk of retiree addresses from PERS
- Website front page to display a toothbrush instead of the dental pick.

#### Goals for Next Meeting

- Set a timeline and guidelines for selection of a consultant
- Discuss the consultant and agent
- Work on providing a workshop for faculty who are considering retirement to review all aspects of benefits (the STRS workshops only provide "income" benefit information)

#### Announcements

- Mitra distributed copies of two pages from the District audit report, one discusses the cost of benefits for retired employees, the other page discusses several items of over-payment to PERS. Reagan states that we are hopeful that the over-payment will be reimbursed by PERS.

#### Adjournment 4:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Collegewide Benefits Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 Business 111 (B-111). Note change of location for next meeting.

