

# BIG 8

## CONFERENCE

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Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2011  
Presidents/Deans Meeting  
Diablo Valley College – Library 151

1. The meeting was called to order by Big 8 Conference President Mary Ann Paz at 10:20 a.m.
2. All in attendance introduced themselves. Attending and representing SCC: Kathryn Jeffery and Mitch Campbell; MJC: Larry Calderon and Bill Kaiser; SRJC: Jim Forkum; CRC: Deborah Travis, Liz Belyea and Jeanne Calamar; ARC: David Viar and Jean Snuggs; Sierra Co.: Willy Duncan and Tom Gang; SJDC: Mary Ann Paz ; DVC: Peter Garcia and Christine Worsley; and Commissioner Mike Liddell.
3. President Peter Garcia welcomed the Big 8 guests to DVC during which time he mentioned that two new buildings and new quad area were under construction.
4. **Minutes** from the June 2, 2011 Presidents/Deans meeting were MSC.
5. President Paz asked for **agenda items from the floor**. The added item was Football Conferencing (Jim Forkum).
6. Commissioner Liddell asked new campus presidents, Willy Duncan from Sierra and Larry Calderon, interim, from MJC, to briefly introduce themselves as new members to the group. Jim Forkum also mentioned that SRJC has hired their new president, Frank Chong, who replaces retiring President Robert Agrella.
7. **Commissioner Reports**  
  
Budget –No corrections or additions reported  
Decorum – The commissioner reported there are a minimal number of violations reported for mid year.  
Allegations, Self Reports, Investigations, Violations – No comments  
Appeals and Eligibility – No comments  
All reports MSC  
  
**Fall Championships** – There were 8 championships in the Big 8 Conference during the fall semester. Each AD was asked to say a few words about there athletic championships.

**Scholarship Nominations** – Jim Forkum encouraged nominations for the NATYCCA scholarship award where nominees can be brought forth from as far back as Spring 2011.

**CCCAA Board report** was not available.

**Management Council** – Chair Jim Forkum gave an update of what the Council is working on: 1) Bylaw 2.6, District Boundaries--they are working with no published criteria or delineation and no official maps. More will be reported on this topic at the spring meeting. Newton Chelette, Antelope Valley College, is the person to receive your concerns/recommendations. 2) Contact Hours-- looking at how many hours a coach should have with an athlete. This subject brought forth much discussion and concern from all in attendance. 3) Social Networking— Facebook site should be connected to official campus site; finding ways to better promote what we are doing in athletics. 4) Repeatability of PE/Athletic classes is in committee. Recommendations will be forthcoming. 5) Cal Pass (Smart Tool) Colleges now have access to data how athletes rank in course work. 6) Reconferencing – under study by athletic director’s association committee; criteria to be established. 7) Wrestling – cost containment issue with weigh-ins done on campus rather than two hours before an event will save travel expense.

**Constitutional Changes** – Jeanne Calamar noted the changes which were mostly editorial. Changes as noted on pages 2, 19 and 23 were MSC.

## 8. **Discussion Items**

**Campus Updates:** Each president or representative gave a brief update on how their campus was meeting the challenges presented in today’s economy.

**DVC President Peter Garcia** – Uncertainty exists; district and faculty costs continue to rise with number of employees dropping.

**CRC President Debra Travis** – No program reductions to date. Athletic fields and facilities are being updated. They are holding steady with level of uncertainty to deal with.

**SCC President Kathryn Jeffery** -- A three year plan is being used. They are in a conservative district which has helped to maintain and have reserves. A major renovation is under way of Hughes Stadium to support the college and community. It is a balancing act; keeping people informed; not cutting any sports.

**ARC President David Viar** – 2013/14 looks more challenging. Cut backs are gradual. They are having discussions with part time faculty and coaches regarding college cuts and effect on them. Student success and athletics rank high in the area. The new Dusty Baker Resource Center is dedicated for student athletic success.

**Sierra President Willy Duncan** – No major changes but 3/5 of executive positions have seen turnover. They have a strong budget reserve. Athletics is a prime student success model. Two failed bond attempts to improve facilities necessitates other funding possibilities.

**MJC Interim President Larry Calderon** – Colleges need to partner with industry; rethink how and where we're going in education and how best to deliver instruction. They are turning away high numbers of students each year.

**SJDC Mary Ann Paz**, rep. for President Jeff Marsee – Campus has a large reserve fund. They have a new president (Marsee) and other executives. They are concerned about the future.

**SRJC Jim Forkum**, rep. for incoming President Frank Chong – SRJC has taken a conservative approach; they have no layoff of classified faculty; now hiring 22 new people. Athletics is recognized as a cohort group. There is data to support the role of athletics. Athletics are the best return on the money invested. They will be asking for priority registration for athletes.

**CCCAA On Line Exam** – The Big 8 Conference has done extremely well in test scores. The exam was not universally accepted by everyone statewide. It will continually be adjusted and reviewed to make it user friendly and appropriate for all the various groups who are required to take the exam.

**Sportsmanship Award, Commissioners Cup, and Community Service Awards** were discussed as a way of recognizing colleges, teams and athletes for the good deeds and sportsmanship they do at their colleges. No criteria has been developed yet. The Constitution Committee will come up with new criteria for these awards. These concepts were discussed and supported by the group. Further discussion will follow in the 2012 March and June meetings.

**Football Conferencing** – A lively discussion took place within this group regarding football conferencing. Some of the presidents/ADs would like to see a return to an all sports conference to include football for reasons of local rivalries and playing colleges who support the Big 8 philosophy of playing with local athletes. The commissioner explained the history and evolution of the current system. No vote or action was taken. The commissioner will discuss the group's comments with NCFE Commissioner Kollenborn.

Next President/Deans/ADs meeting, SRJC, May 31, 2012, 10 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned