

BIG 8

CONFERENCE

Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2010
Cosumnes River College

1. The meeting was called to order by Big 8 Conference President Mitch Campbell at 9:35.
2. Dr. Deborah Travis, President of Cosumnes River College, welcomed all in attendance. She mentioned that CRC was founded in 1970 and has over 15,500 students in attendance who are receiving their community college experience in a learning community that combines academics with student programs.
3. All in attendance introduced themselves. Attending and representing SCC: Kathryn Jeffery and Mitch Campbell; MJC: Gaither Loewenstein and Bill Kaiser; SRJC: Robert Agrella and Jim Forkum; CRC: Deborah Travis, Liz Belyea and Jeanne Calamar; ARC: David Viar and Jean Snuggs; Sierra Co.: Leo Chavez and John Volek; SJDC: Mary Ann Paz; DVC: Peter Garcia and Christine Worsley; and Commissioner Mike Liddell.
4. Minutes from the June 3, 2010 Presidents/Deans meeting were approved.
5. **Commissioner Reports:**
 - a. **Budget** report was approved as presented.
 - b. **Appeals** report was approved as presented.
 - c. **Decorum** report was approved as presented.
 - d. **Allegations/Self reports** were approved as presented.
 - e. **Raise the Bar** – Jim Forkum spoke to this topic saying there is an effort to instill a set of minimum standards as ADs to raise the bar in how we operate to improve, promote and stage programs—an effort to do better what we already do.
 - f. **Coaches/Athletic Personnel On-Line Exam** – Big 8 test results for the voluntary on-line exam are commendable. Legislation to make the on-line exam “required” for community college athletic personnel will be voted upon at the CCCAA spring convention 2011.
 - g. **Social Networking** (Facebook) – Legislation will be presented at the CCCAA convention to update this controversial topic which affects recruiting.
 - h. **Big 8 Conference Insurance** – New insurance policies are now in place. Policies for general liability and officers and directors replace the old policy from Student Insurance with decreased premium and no deductible.

- i. Big 8 Conference **Hall of Fame Nominees** – Criteria for future COA Big 8 Conference Hall of Fame nominees will be developed and presented at the next Assembly meeting.
- j. **All Conference/All Big 8 Scholar Certificates** – A new digital disk has been developed for Big 8 conference selections; the disks have been mailed to the 8 campuses.
- k. **Pepsi Scholar** nominations from the Big 8 are: men’s swimming team, SRJC; female nominee is Emilie Moeoski, volleyball, SCC; male nominee is Giovanni Rios, baseball, Sierra.
- l. **NATYCAA Cup** – John Volek reported NATYCAA Cup awards program is growing with scholarship opportunities available to CA community college student athletes.
- m. **Program Reviews** – DVC and SCC completed reviews in Spring 2010. Next review will be Sierra in the spring 2011 and MJC in the fall 2011.
- n. **Retiring Presidents** – Four presidents in the Big 8 Conference have retired or will be retiring in 2011. Judy Walters, DVC, retired, and Raul Rodriques, moved on to another college. Robert Agrella, SRJC, and Leo Chavez, Sierra College, have announced retirements pending 2011. All four presidents were presented retirement plaques for their outstanding service to the Big 8 Conference.

Discussion Topics:

- 1. **Review Founding Principles for Big 8** – There was discussion and review of founding principles for the Big 8. The original founding principles were upheld relative to scholarship, recruiting, competitiveness and the use and support of all local student athletes. David Viar, President, ARC, will review and clarify the conference statement of policy/ philosophy and distribute it to the attendees for discussion at the June 2011 meeting.
- 2. **CCCPE** – CRC Dean Liz Belyea, currently treasurer of CCCPE, discussed current recommendations of this organization as to how to improve the disciplines of PE statewide so as to take PE in a better direction. Those in attendance didn’t want courses reworded and reflected as kinesiology.
- 3. **SEP Plan Legislation** – Mitch Campbell, SCC, discussed his legislative proposal to be voted upon at the spring convention 2011. The Big 8 Conference Assembly voted unanimously at the fall 2010 meeting to require SEP plans be in place for all student athletes before they compete. Fall athletes must comply by October 15; spring athletes must comply by March 1. The Big 8 Conference currently is the only conference in the State to require SEP for all student athletes.
- 4. **Presidents Constitutional Authority** – Presidential discussion revolved around Big 8 constitution amendments; they agreed no change is needed in the Big 8 Constitution but the presidents want to review any and all policy changes that affect all 8 campuses before changes are finalized.

5. **Open Recruiting** – There is a proposal that will come to a vote at the spring CCCAA convention to open the State of CA for recruiting for all community colleges. Unanimously, the Big 8 Conference presidents are against this proposal. They affirm the philosophy of the conference to serve local/contiguous student athletes.

6. **Cal-Pass** (CA Partnership for Academic Student Success) – CCCAA executive director, Carlyle Carter, was present to discuss this research project. Districts will do research on student athletes from the information compiled in this electronic report.

President Viar suggested Big 8 commissioner collect data from the 8 campuses to review the academic progression of student athletes.

7. **Coaches Code of Ethics Legislation** – The coaches code of ethics was reviewed and several suggestions were made for improvement. Colleges were encouraged to send possible changes to Paul Moore at Ohlone College.

8. **CCCAA Board representative** Pres. Kathryn Jeffery, SCC, made a short report relative to the state basketball tournament.

The meeting was adjourned.