

BIG 8

CONFERENCE

Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2011
Presidents/Deans Meeting
Sierra College

1. The meeting was called to order by Big 8 Conference President Mitch Campbell at 10:10 a.m.
2. All in attendance introduced themselves. Attending and representing SCC: Kathryn Jeffery and Mitch Campbell; MJC: Bill Kaiser; SRJC: Jim Forkum; CRC: Deborah Travis and Jeanne Calamar; ARC: David Viar and Jean Snuggs; Sierra Co.: Leo Chavez, John Volek, and Dawn Flannery; SJDC: Jeff Marsee and Mary Ann Paz ; DVC: Peter Garcia and Christine Worsley; and Commissioner Mike Liddell. New Presidents Jeff Marsee and Peter Garcia were introduced by their respective deans.
3. Retiring President Leo Chavez welcomed the group to Sierra College. He indicated that the college is in transition right now as they just hired the new President, William Duncan from Taft College, and will be hiring new personnel in Human Resources and Finance as well as a new AD.
4. **Minutes** from the December 2, 2010, Presidents/Deans meeting were MSC.
5. President Campbell asked for **agenda items from the floor**. The added items were: Report on NATYCAA (John Volek), Competition days/time (Jim Forkum) and Action Plan Committee (Christine Worsley).
6. Commissioner Liddell requested the presence of Sierra golf coach, Tim Hovancsek, who experienced cardiac arrest on March 9, 2010, at a golf match in Chico, CA. Tim explained the happenings of that day and how his life was saved by two individuals, Roger Gray and Al Garcia. The Big 8 Conference awarded Garcia and Gray special recognition plaques for aiding Coach Hovancsek in a life threatening crisis.
7. **Commissioner Reports**

Budget – MSC
Allegations, Self Reports, Investigations, Violations – MSC
Appeals and Eligibility – MSC
Decorum Violations – MSC

8. **President Kathryn Jeffery (SCC), CCCAA Board member** reported that the Board's focus has been on what the State budget deficit is doing to athletics. She said some colleges in the State have not been proactive in dealing with the budget reductions. Los Rios is now on board with the CAL PASS research; a full report is due this month. She explained the \$55 million controversy with the legislative analyst office. In her opinion, during Cost Containment negotiations, the Big 8 presidents and deans have been proactive and provided good leadership.
9. **Management Council** – Jim Forkum (SRJC) will be the new chair for this Council. He explained the function of the 28 member council as being a broad prospective group who have extensive challenges this next year dealing with a number of issues such as re-conferencing, cost containment, professionalism standards for AD's, endangered sports, statewide recruiting, and contact hours with athletes.

Jean Snuggs (ARC) commented AD's are now getting together again to be more powerful and proactive while working with the Management Council.
10. **NATYCCA** – John Volek (Sierra) gave a report on this association and its effectiveness on athletics. He encourages support of NATYCCA as it has many benefits; the Big 8 Conference athletes will benefit from recognition/awards.

John will be recognized as AD of the Year at the upcoming conference as well as Bob Myers, AD at Solano College.
11. **Supplement Approvals** – Basketball, Wrestling and Water Polo Schedules/Supplements were MSC.
12. **Mary Ann Paz, will assume the presidency** of the Big 8 Conference as of July 1, 2011. Commissioner Liddell recognized outgoing President Mitch Campbell with a certificate of appreciation.
13. **Retirement of John Volek (Sierra)** – The Commissioner recognized John for his service to the Big 8 Conference, CCCAA, and NATYCCA with a plaque.
14. **Basketball Officials Decorum** – Commissioner reported on the meeting that was held this spring with Dean Christine Worsley, Assistant Athletic Director Jeanne Calamar and Basketball Official's Supervisor, Dan Hooper, and the need to clean up foul language during basketball games. Commissioner will vigorously pursue this policy with all officials associations and Big 8 coaches this summer and during the year. Deans questioned the value, validity, and cost of the basketball observers program and asked the commissioner to review this program with the official's association. They felt they should receive a copy of the observer's report. Invoicing of the cost of observers was also discussed.
15. **Pepsi Award Winners** – President Campbell reviewed Pepsi Award Winners from the Big 8 Conference, i.e., Giovanni Rios (Sierra) and Emillie Moroski (SCC).

16. **Coaches On-line Exam** – The legislation for the on-line exam did not pass at Burlingame convention but the CCCAA board overruled the vote and approved the exam for athletic personnel. New tests have been designed to be more user friendly. The exam should be incorporated in the R1 and R2 training. The deans should be the ones to decide who takes the exam.

17. **Campus Closures/Scheduling** – Sierra President Chavez spoke about the dilemma that some colleges are facing due to furloughs and campus closures this next year and its impact on scheduling home athletic contests. DVC also discussed the problem their district will be facing with campus closures and its affect on athletic schedules. It was discussed that colleges need more flexibility in scheduling games that will benefit them financially. There currently exists no process within the constitution/supplements to accommodate schedule changes.

The deans agreed that they will meet this summer by conference call to review and explore all options and criteria to possibly give Big 8 colleges flexibility in scheduling campus events.

18. **Cost Containment** – Dean Christine Worsley (DVC) presented to the group various handouts and reports compiled by the Action Plan Committee which were presented at the Tahoe meeting. A lengthy discussion occurred with the presidents and deans regarding the image of community college athletics, the value and mission of athletics, the future of athletics, student athletic success, institutional acceptance, corporate sponsorships, campus fundraising, and promotion of athletic programs. Presidents discussed what is spent per athlete at two year colleges and how many go on to four year colleges; if athletics is identified as part of the critical core, it must be protected. Reviewing athlete’s transcripts and the classes they take should be a priority of each college as they evaluate their athlete’s academic progress.

19. **Bylaw 3.6** – President Campbell explained Bylaw 3.6 and the ramifications of how this bylaw will be affected with summer school classes and the NTS programs. All summer programs are under scrutiny; there may be new legislation forthcoming to address this issue.

20. **Presidential Constitutional Change** – President Campbell discussed the proposed change to the Big 8 Constitution that the presidents requested at the last meeting. It was agreed that the conference presidents or their designee have the authority to approve amendments to the constitution as long as there is a quorum vote. The presidents in attendance approved of the new constitutional language.

Future Meetings: October 6, 2011, Assembly Meeting, SJDC, 9:30 a.m.
December 6, President’s/Dean’s Meeting, DVC, 10 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned

