

Draft

Honors Council of California Minutes

September 18, 2009

Tim Adell, Victor Valley
Cynthia Barnett, Moorpark
Suketu Bhavsar, Cal Poly Pomona
Colette Chattopadhyay, Saddleback
Miriam Colbert, College of the Canyons
Rebecca Hatch, Mt. San Antonio
Joe Holliday, El Camino
Carolyn Kuykendall, Mt. San Antonio
John Oakes, Grossmont
Patty Robinson, College of the Canyons

Kay Ryals, Irvine Valley
Erik Ozolins, Mt. San Jacinto
Alison Primoza, San Diego Mesa
Paul Savoii, Long Beach City
Kathleen Sell, Riverside City
Teresa Scarbrough, Orange Coast
Darrell Thompson, El Camino
Jeanne Venditti, Irvine Valley
Brian Waddington, Citrus
Christina Yamanaka, Mt. San Jacinto

- I. **Call to Order:** Brian Waddington called the meeting to order at 11:00. Suketu Bhavsar, dean of Honors at Cal Poly Pomona presented on the outlines of the Cal Poly honors program, suggesting ways HTCC students might take advantage of transfer opportunities.
- II. **Minutes:** The minutes of the May 8 meeting were approved as amended.

III. Reports

- a. **Transfer:** Carol and Alison met over the summer and went through all our transfer agreements. They presented a grid of universities and corresponding agreement parameters and can send Excel file of the grid to interested directors. Alison will continue to bring them up to date. The previous printout was a checklist, and this has been updated to a grid with two categories: student requirements and benefits. We will hear more from transfer committee members. We are starting to see the fruits of our process. We will put the grid on the website, making links to descriptions.

Chuck Whitchurch has talked to **Columbia University** about the possibility of a \$10,000-20,000 scholarship. It would be through the **Columbia School of General Studies**. This agreement would target non-traditional students: 25 years and older, with prison records, and military personnel. Carolyn is working with **Pitzer** University. Kathleen's administration at Riverside City is experiencing some pressure for a meeting. Brian is working on **Azusa Pacific, Pepperdine** and **USC**. We have lost our contact with **UC Santa Barbara** by losing a key feeder school as an HTCC member. Jennifer Saito and Eva Mo are working on **Stanislaus**. **Georgetown** is perpetually interested in honors students. We are looking to re-establish connections with **Cal Lutheran**. **Cal State Northridge**

and **UC Long Beach** are currently in flux. We have sent HTCC students to **Berkeley** through the **Hawes Business School**. Citrus' president Geraldine Perri has a connection. She implored us to keep helping students improve their chances at premier institutions such as **Berkeley**. She recently received a letter from a Citrus student currently at **Berkeley** telling her that the Citrus honors program thoroughly prepared him for what he faced at the university.

- b. **President's Report:** Tabled.
- c. **Treasurer's Report:** We have a balance of \$16,000. The annual pattern suggests we are breaking even, though the loss of assured UC Irvine funding for *Building Bridges*. We are going to have to do more fund-raising for the publication: UCI partial funding, 501C3 tax-deductible status, increasing dues and/or number of dues-paying schools. We need to revisit the requirement of a joint Southern and Northern California meeting.

We discussed the issue of passes at the Irvine conference. Many free passes are being handed out to friends and family of presenters, and we need a tighter rein on abuses. Though we have no exact record, we know they have happened. Erik suggested issuing two passes per presenter. We discussed the possibility of a tiered system of passes: \$25 for sessions and lunch, \$10 for a session and no lunch. Each student could invite family and friends for \$10 each. We considered having several additional tiers, such as one for single-session observers and a separate one for faculty, but the general consensus was that the more complicated we made the system, the less likely it was to work. We tabled the discussion for the executive board to flesh out for later consideration by the general body.

Adjournment—12:25

- d. **Conference:** Erik and Christina will do initial contacts with students. John is in charge of the Scholarship Committee. We are going to establish a task timeline for them along the lines of "by this time, you should have this task done." We want three deadlines for students: 1) submission of 100-word abstracts, 2) submission of 400-word abstracts for scholarships and 3) application for attendance. We want to push the deadline for application two weeks before the conference. This would help solve the annual problem of the program coming out perilously close to the conference date. Erik will send directors a list of attendees to check against their records. Kathleen will set a deadline by which directors need to get back to her. That should happen over Christmas break. Carolyn suggested we change the Issues Forum from the debate format it has assumed to more of an open discussion, as denoted by "forum." She suggested the topic of Human Trafficking, and it met with general agreement.

Denise, the webmaster, wants feedback on the website. Jeanne said the drop-down menu is great. She opened the question of whether we can set up the website so people can pay for the conference by credit card. We want the new

information by December. We need to clarify if schools' dues are current. If not, their students must pay the \$50 registration. We also need more updated information on the honored individual in the Director's award. On publicity for the conference, we have generally issued three posters for each school. We considered whether there should be more red in the poster. Kathleen suggested we send it out for feedback. We will have copies to send out at the October meeting. We decided to have an executive board meeting October 2 at Mt. SAC to decide on changes to the bylaws.

- IV. **New Business:** John said a colleague is putting out information that will help create momentum for statewide honors. They still need data from schools: diversity, transfer rates—things that demonstrate student success. UCLA might have that information. They have information suggesting TAP students graduate much more quickly than regular students. Alison reminded us of the NCHC's two-year college survey. Joe emphasized student success, which we need to use to argue for our programs with administrations. Such support is harder to find with the economic hard times. HTCC can send a letter to college superintendants, signed by our president, arguing for the advantages of honors programs. We could make the letter a regular event, keeping the HTCC and honors programs constantly in our institutions' minds.

Adjournment—1:55