



## Districtwide Coordinating Educational Council

*Anticipate and serve the educational needs of the students in the District by reviewing, facilitating, and recommending educational initiatives and programs districtwide, consistent with existing District and College planning processes and Board Policies 2410 and 2510.*

### Meeting Notes **October 12, 2006**

4:00 p.m. Room F106 Cuyamaca College

Present: B. Hertel, B. Smith, B. Tiffany, C. Chiriboga, C. Hill, D. Colli,  
E. Cardenas, G. Perri, J. Al-Amin, J. Buckley, J. Colson, J. Ford,  
J. Marron, M. Wangler, Sierra Seevers

Absent: B. Hash, B. Schmiede, D. Low

Recorder: L. Davidson

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#### I. **Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the calendar.

#### II. **Academic Calendar**

B. Tiffany presented two calendars the Calendar Committee is considering. The first is the rollover calendar that would keep the existing calendar with minor adjustments. This calendar has a start date that is two weeks earlier than other colleges in our area. The second is the alternate calendar that would move the fall start date forward one week for closer alignment to SDSU and other colleges.

B. Tiffany met with B. Hertel on September 25 to discuss the status of the two proposals, and the pros and cons of moving the fall 2007 start date. By moving the calendar forward one week, we may lose SDSU students who enroll and later drop the class with no penalty if they successfully crash at SDSU. The counter argument is that we currently lose many SDSU students who need to pick up classes elsewhere. Students are going to City, Mesa, and other colleges with similar start dates. Our last day to add or drop a class is the SDSU start date.

B. Tiffany reported the Calendar Committee would like more research to identify how many SDSU students we lose because of an early calendar. The research office does not have access to adequate data that would provide valid assessment. It is difficult to collect data on students that do not attend our college.

A change in start date would bring up other issues. The loss of two final days, and the need to pick up a contract workday could be addressed by adding a staff

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development day at the front end of the calendar, and using a Saturday for the clean up day.

The original discussion to move the start date came from the Student Services Think Tank Meeting September 8. Suggestions to establish a task force did not work out. B. Hertel thanked everyone for the constructive discussion and stated there would be no decision today. This item will be on the agenda of the next Calendar Committee at the end of the month. B. Hertel asked for a recommendation from the Calendar Committee by the end of the month in order for the issue to move to DCEC and DEC. B. Hertel will ask the research staff continue looking at data available from the National Student Clearinghouse or other sources.

J. Marron stated the SDSU proposed start date for fall 2007 is August 27.

J. Ford mentioned the Science & CIS faculty has stated many of our students are from SDSU.

C. Chiriboga spoke about the Instruction Council meeting where the effects of our add/drop deadline ending the first day of SDSU classes was discussed. Within the context of enrollment trends, and the expectation of soft enrollments in the fall, she described the discussion as a ground swell to move the calendar minimally to accommodate reverse transfers. SDSU is now aggressively pursuing our students for transfer, and with current numbers, this group looked for ways to counter this. We are talking about a five-day change. Let us try this.

B. Tiffany stated a change might have the opposite effect. Students know ahead of time what classes they need. If they enroll in a history class here and are successful in crashing at SDSU, they will dump our class without penalty of a W and receive a full refund.

M. Wangler stated he has five students in two of his classes from SDSU.

C. Hill stated a change should not be made if there is no research to justify it.

D. Colli suggested we bring these SDSU students together and ask for their perspective.

G. Perri suggested we contact the Student Services Vice Chancellor at San Diego City College and present our situation with our calendar explaining we are not pleased with enrollments, and asking for their experience and numbers of students co-enrolled at SDSU. At the SDICCA meeting, they announced their enrollments were up 7%. City added 40 sections, at the request of SDSU, for freshmen who need remedial classes.

J. Buckley stated the 8-week classes are showing improvement.

J. Al-Amin asked about ways to gather the research needed from students next spring.

B. Hertel stated the difficulty is in tracking students who go to other colleges. These are not GCCCD students, but students who decide to go elsewhere.

G. Perri stated colleges who move to a compressed calendar show increased enrollments.

B. Smith stated her concern with the number of days left for final exams. To be responsible to the students we do have, grades must be out on time for transfers. Discussion continued addressing the details of the alternative calendar. Grossmont College currently has for finals six days plus one day for clean up, and the need for more days not less. A possible solution is to use the next Saturday for the clean up day. The grade deadline with the rollover calendar is only an issue for one year. Having final exams on a different day of the week than the regular class may help. This is a problem for some students, but only a one-day imposition.

J. Marron stated we should try something different. We do have the last spring data where we lost many continuing students when SDSU opened early in January. At a recent SDICCA meeting, SDSU was asking for an additional 600 students. Going to the alternative calendar is somewhat of a leap, but why not try it one year? There is concern we may see this same sort of loss again.

G. Perri explained we are now competing with SDSU for the freshmen pool. City College added 20 Math and 20 English basic skills sections to address the additional students accepted at SDSU with lower skills. SDSU recognizes this competition and no longer allows us on their campus.

J. Buckley suggested we create more on-line distance education classes, and to identify certain key classes that may attract new students.

B. Hertel asked why not recruit a different group of students such as the Navy. A compressed calendar will attract more students here.

President Perri noted a compressed calendar would impact labs and result in cut assignments.

The following recommendations were summarized:

- Check with the district scheduler
- Gather SDSU students for a focus group prior to the next Calendar Committee meeting
- Use a Saturday for the clean up final day
- Take issue back to Calendar Committee for recommendation
- Recommendation needed by October 31 to negotiate changes with employee groups
- Issue will move to DCEC then DEC
- B. Hertel will contact Sandra Cook at San Diego City College to ask for top classes there

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- Identify classes to build that will attract additional students

### III. **Board Policy 5016**

J. Ford stated the current policy, as written, is not what is practiced.

D. Colli explained there is concern with the minimum number of 12 semester units, and the appeals process for an earlier readmission date to both colleges.

B. Tiffany explained that a student who is disqualified at one college is prevented from enrolling at the other. If the student successfully petitions readmission to the other college, they would be allowed into both colleges. He suggested a number lower than twelve units for the attempted minimum units would be better. For twenty years, it was zero. B. Tiffany surveyed the past 27 catalogs and reported 12 units was never used. The Ed Code states a district can have from zero to 12 units.

If a student is allowed to finish 12 units with a grade point average under 2.0 before intervention, the concern is they could easily make a decision that school is not for them and stay out of school. G. Perri suggested we look at other multi-college samples.

J. Ford requested that L. Davidson obtain copies of the past changes to this policy and send out to DCEC members. She recalls discussion in DEC of additional changes. J. Ford will not take this issue to the Senate now.

M. Wangler stated he did not think a middle ground was considered, but they only looked at 0 or 12 units as the options.

**Action taken:** B. Tiffany will look further into the issue. L. Davidson will send copies of past changes to DCEC members. This item will be revisited at the next DCEC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 17, 2006 in Heritage of the Americas Museum at 2:30-4:00 p.m.

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