

PRO Meeting  
July 11, 2012

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:03PM

PRESENT: Jerry Herman, Bruce Jacobs, Ann Whitehead, Pat England, Jay Quesada, Linda Japzon, Yvonne Lewis, and Remo Arancio.

ABSENT: Alex Pappas and Anna Pavelka-Lodato. Newly elected Debra Weintraub was not present.

Ned Pearlstein has resigned from the PRO Board.  
Jerry announced that Debra Weintraub has been elected to the PRO Board.....voter approved via email.

GUESTS: Stephanie Casenza, Janell Hampton and Matt Goldstein.

Before initiating the business segment of this PRO meeting, Jerry introduced the first guest speaker, Stephanie Casenza.

Stephanie described a pilot project the Peralta Foundation will initiate in Fall 2012. Stephanie pointed out that students are frequently unfamiliar with the scholarship application process, and they are sometimes underqualified to meet the demands of the process. For example, students may not be able to write the essay part of the application with appropriate writing skills. Stephanie defined the purpose of the pilot program as the development and delivery of a workshop aimed at assisting students through the process of application. Stephanie stated that the Foundation is eager to enlist the help of retirees to help develop and deliver the workshop and to counsel applicants in the pursuit of a scholarship.

Additionally, Stephanie told the PRO Board that the Foundation publishes one newsletter annually and that it wants to double the number of scholarships delivered next year. Last year the Foundation awarded almost \$93,000.00 in scholarships. Bruce inquired about the time commitment needed by any retired volunteer. Stephanie replied that each activity does NOT have to engage the **same** retiree.

Jerry introduced PRO's second guest speaker, Janell Hampton. Janell is a part-time English instructor at Laney, the Diversity representative of the PFT Executive Board, and a CFT sponsor of PLUCC (Political Leadership Uniting to Create Change). Janell described the migration of PFT's original PAC (Political Action Committee) to what is now known as the CFT-based COPE (Committee on Political Education). COPE is endorsing Abel Guillen's campaign for a seat in the California Assembly (18th District), the re-election of Obama, and the passage of Governor Brown's Tax Initiative. COPE is vigorously opposing "paycheck deception". The latter refers to any measure that would gut union strength, and make it nearly impossible for unions to organizationally participate in elections. Through acquisition of PRO email addresses of those indicating their interest, Janell wants to advance current CFT thinking--particularly regarding the initiatives numbered # 30 and #32, (both appearing on the upcoming November California ballot). CFT will SUPPORT # 30 (Brown Tax Initiative), and OPPOSE # 32 (so-called "paycheck protection" or "paycheck deception" initiative).

Matt Goldstein, PFT President and third guest-speaker, addressed PRO with his status report of the Accrediting Association's current assessment of PCCD. Matt shared the following information, derived from a letter Barbara Beno, President of ACCJC, sent on July 2 to Peralta's newly appointed Chancellor, Jose Ortiz:

- 1) the commission has placed PCCD on **Warning**.
- 2) during the warning period, PCCD **remains** accredited.
- 3) the commission has **removed** OPEB funding from commission scrutiny/concern.
- 4) the commission requires that **some** audit findings still need resolution.
- 5) the commission claims that PCCD has **not** achieved long-term fiscal stability related to resolution of collective bargaining agreements on compensation and imposition of a soft cap on retiree benefits.
- 6) the commission claims that PCCD has **not** finished evaluation of PCCD Board policies.
- 7) the commission claims that PCCD and the Peralta colleges do **not** demonstrate the fiscal capacity to support quality student learning programs and services.

With respect to number 5 above, Matt defined the terms "soft cap" and "hard cap" thus:

soft---e.g. PCCD pays percentage of costs with no limitation on PCCD's obligation as costs rise.

hard--e.g. PCCD pays no more than a fixed amount per employee, per year, or per

lifetime.

With respect to no. 5 above, Bruce urged that the Commission be addressed forcefully since it may have overstepped its area of authority. Given that collective bargaining rights are **separate and distinct** from Commission-mandated College District administrative responsibilities, the PRO board agreed with the assertion that a potential breach of the commission's appropriate scope of evaluation may be involved.

Secretary's Report: Remo moved for approval, seconded by Linda.  
MSU

Newsletter: Bruce commented that there remain nine unsold tickets for Woodminster's "Fiddler on the Roof" show. Remo suggested that the tickets be delivered to students who may wish to attend. Yvonne agreed to deliver those remaining tickets to the appropriate Laney Department for distribution to interested students.

Bruce then described the success of Pay-Pal. Nevertheless, for new membership applications, Pay-Pal cannot accommodate the needed capacity for initial applicant information--Pay-Pal can take care of the payment part. However, Bruce will enable easy membership application procedures on screen with push-button access to that initial information required.

President's Report: Jerry read aloud his letter of introduction/congratulation delivered to PCCD's newest Chancellor, Dr. Jose Ortiz. Jerry identified that PRO has a membership of @ 400 and represents in the overall, @ 400 more Peralta retirees.

Benefits: Regarding the entire issue of certain prescribed drugs for retirees OR current employees--the District has agreed not to

remove drugs from the formulary as well as to change the language in the 2008 SPD back to the language that appeared in the 2006 SPD.

Social: Linda has already secured needed reservation for the PRO picnic scheduled for August 23.

Membership: Jay shared that she informed Bill Bell about the process of formally joining PRO. Ann delivered to all PRO Board members a list of Peralta's most recent retirees as of June 2012.

Service: Yvonne has maintained a close relationship with the Foundation office. Yvonne confirmed that she will deliver left-over Woodminster tickets for "Fiddler" to the Laney Theatre Arts Department.

New Business: Ann urged that at an appropriate time PRO consider making a donation to the Single Payer Effort. Ann also urged that all PRO members read the excellent article reproduced on page 7 of the current July PRO newsletter by Kenneth Burt published in *Perspective*, a CFT journal. Lastly, Ann remarked on the significance of the "Knox vs SEIU" U. S. Supreme Court decision recently ruled. This decision of the U.S. Supreme Court impacts unions negatively and addresses Janell Hampton's message regarding "paycheck deception".....opposed by COPE.

Jerry announced that although he will not be present, the next meeting of PRO will be August 1, 2012, to be presided by Bruce.

Jerry adjourned the meeting at 2:52PM.

