Attendees: Dean Laureano Flores, Dennis Garcia, Eileen Ie, Daniel Lambert, Felipe Lopez, Gabriella Lopez, Al Rios, Manny Santoyo, Liliana Urrutia, Henry Welsh

Recorder: Roni-Lei Inouye

Meeting was called to order at 12:12 p.m.

Introductions were made and minutes of 11/18/2011 were reviewed. Motion moved to approve by F. Lopez. 2nd by M. Santoyo. Minutes were read and approved.

FIRESTONE – Al Rios

- The building was purchased a few years ago and there have been changes due to the budget crisis situation and a moratorium placed on the project. The main campus building plans were also put on hold.
- City of South Gate hindered the project by wanting close to $20 million in improvements to the streets and lighting around where we were going to build the campus. That was too much for the college.
- Attorneys were brought in on both sides and this further prolonged it.
- One of the issues with the moratorium was why are we building all these buildings when we are cutting course offerings and services?
- There were already issues just to upkeep the existing building.
- Those were the barriers.
- Now the moratorium is lifted, we are able to move ahead.
- There are presenting at the Board Meeting the Firestone Plans and now the plans are reduced. Initially there was 134,000 sq. ft. building and now we are at 100,000 sq. ft. (passed out handout that has more particulars).
- Reduction of about 30,000 sq. ft. and that will save about $25 million and that amount they are attempted to use for the Corporate Center. (That is the next item on the Agenda).
- The idea is to allow students to complete their degrees and transfer requirements, lab space, expand the student support services here, the student health center.
• There is a rental income of approximately $1 million on the warehouses on the property and that will, hopefully, be put back into the operational costs.
• Part of the plans have changed. We were going to knock down two buildings in the back. Now we will only be knocking down #4, the big building warehouse. Not the building that is connected to the warehouse in the front because it means we would have to retrofit the warehouse and we don’t want to go that route.
• We will only knock down one building and build a campus on the back lot on Firestone.
• We are not using the warehouses because the retrofitting of the warehouse has been analyzed and is just too costly.
• The parking lot will come close to 1700 stalls and is before the Board of Trustees today and if that gets approved, that will be moving us in the right direction.
• Any questions?
• GLopez: Will the previously done programming be utilized in any way? Where they went to the departments and faculty with regarding all programs.
• ARios: They met already with all stakeholders where everybody wanted their own offices and labs. They centralized it and narrowed it down; we couldn’t do all the expansion we wanted.
• We have a timeline running. We have to vacate the building by (another handout passed out)…we are in a leased facility and it is not field-act compliant. Meaning that it is not according to State codes that meets the earthquake requirements, etc. We are here on a temporary basis.
• We told the State we would be here until we move into a permanent location, this building here. They have already given us a number of waivers and, they told us, “that’s it, there are no more waivers”.
• We have to be out close to 2018 when the existing lease expires. We have to be out by then, 2019, we can’t really be here. It will be 20 years by that time. We can’t be here. This is really serious, we can’t operate here.
• Owners have offered to do the retrofitting. They like the lease agreement and rental income is close to $800,000/ tenants.

• New introduction of Dean Laureano Flores, taking over Laura N. Ramirez’s position, Dean of CT. Lives in Sylmar and worked at the District for 9 years. Taught at Mission College for 6 years prior to that instructing Computer Technology and office skills and at Harbor College. Taught mathematics in Mexico high schools. Goal was to get license in engineering, but enjoys working with the colleges.
• Discussing Firestone building that has 1 million sq. ft. under all the building and we were planning some elaborate buildings. Now we are down to 100,000 sq. ft.
• There will be about 32 classrooms (double that of So. Gate)
• Possibly a 3 story building. Waiting for the Board to approve it.
• We will not recreate the buildings; we’ll use existing buildings that have gone through the approvals. This will speed up the process.
• DGarcia: In terms of speeding up the process what will that do to the Environment Impact Report and the City’s demands to widen the streets?
• Our fault was we submitted two phases to the City. We only had money for Phase One. We were already thinking too big, that hurt us.
• When the City saw those double plans, the City wanted to do all the improvements to the front and not wait. We would have a lot of traffic and they have dealt with a lot of LA Unified School projects that have been coming in the area. They were ready for us. It has smoothed out; they have dealt with a number of presidents.
• We threatened the City and told them that we would go somewhere else. We can’t afford to spend that much money on all of the improvements and the City believed us. I don’t think they want to lose the college in their City. It is a good part of their marketing plan in their City, it’s good for the City.
• If it gets approved by the Board today, we will move along with a more formal plan. You will be able to see more of the building plans and environmental plans, etc.
• There are some concerns and some environmental issues that may come to light a little later. There is a recycling plant adjacent to that and they have a metal shredding machine that sends a lot of small particles into the air. There is not a lot of enforcement regulating these companies and there might be some issues. We are moving ahead, because if we don’t move in 6 years we will be in trouble.
• HWelsh: Do we have a timeline now that we are moving ahead? A groundbreaking or anything?
• ARios: The handout has a timeline.
• All the classes will be smart classes. There will be labs for all the sciences, chemistry, biology. Everyone wanting their own spaces, etc. It’s not going to happen. It’s all about sharing office spaces. Silos don’t seem to help with the overall campus atmosphere. Sharing has not been bad. It has been a good thing; more communication and planning things between various departments. Departments that don’t normally communicate are talking to each other and so forth.
• DGarcia: This timeline on back of the handout, is this indicative of the area? As I came down on Manchester, is this really representative of the local area? I just saw a lot African Americans, about 87%.
• ARios: A lot of the enrollment is coming from these very needy areas in Watts, South Central. That might be part of it. The demographics have shifted. Watts and South Central are not what they used to be. The majority now is Latino and it is changing. There are still African Americans, not to the numbers of what they represented in the past. It is very much changing.
• Who are we competing with? What are the other colleges around here? Where is Compton college? In Compton.
• Lynwood is north of Compton. It is the boundary. South Gate is ELAC’s service area boundary.
• People can go to any college. Southwest is over here and they might think we are competing with them and Trade Tech is not too far.
• There is enough density for everybody.
• There is a higher of concentration of students here than at the main campus? This has a lot of potential for that.
• FLopez: Are we hiring people? Are we investing to bring for specific to the S.G. campus. What is the overall Administration hiring policy? There is growth here. One thing is having the facility and the other is getting commitment on behalf of departments for staffing.
• ARios: The community basically wants their own college. They have mentioned this to the Board members, the President and other people.
• Some of the past leadership has backed off on moving the college forward.
• In the end, the community college is about serving the community.
• The history is that the cities got together and created joint powers to leverage federal dollars to pay the lease to have ELAC here in the first place. They have invested in bringing the college here. People forget that. It’s been a long time since that happened. A lot of people don’t know the history.
• DGarcia: Just the name itself, East Los Angeles College? Is it really considered East Los Angeles?
• ARios: It is considered Southeast Los Angeles. All the cities on this side have their own identity. They have been in the news a lot. The Gateway cities.
• You have the LA area, the Florence-Firestone unincorporated area, Watts; their own community. South Central.
• DGarcia: They want to have this as their own college, the local South Gate kids? Is it like an identity thing?
• It happens in the natural progression of things. If you look at Mission College in Sylmar, it used to be part of Pierce College at one time. Riverside had Moreno Valley and Norco, they were satellites and they became their own campuses. It is nothing out of the norm.
CORPORATE CENTER

- The District pulled some money. (Most of you know we purchased the Corporate Center up on Monterey Corporate Road? We have had many meetings up there.) It turns out that the building is not useable.
- Retrofitting that building to make it compliant for what the college wanted to use it, the Health Careers Academy, would have been too costly. They did some assessments and it won’t work.
- The District is weighing in on this and they suggested we move the Health Careers Academy to the Main Campus.
- It cost $13.4 million to purchase it and another $2 million was spent to vacate the building of a general administration service and a number of other agencies which took a long time.
- Now we are finding out the building is not useable.
- There is some talk of selling the building and at this time, it would probably not be at a profit.
- It is still very fluid as far as what’s going to happen.
- MSantoyo: Who is there now?
- It is empty now. It is still losing its value because it is becoming dilapidated due to vandalism, some graffiti. Not too good.

ROSEMEAD OFFSITE CAMPUS

- All plans were to close it down by December, 2012. They initially wanted to go on until June 30, but they have moved the courses to our other sites and the Main Campus.
- They want to move Probation over here for the Winter (South Gate). We have allocated some rooms for Probation Officers’ Training. You might be seeing more officers. The plan is to close it down.
- MSantoyo: Is that to save money or the facilities aren’t good enough?
- ARios: They had problems with the School Board. When you have to deal with changing politicians on the Board, with the change of the elected officials, then their priorities change.
- We are leasing the facility now.
OUTREACH

• With the budget being what it is, we have downsized the course offerings at the high schools and other community. Not a lot going on. We still have the other component of Outreach that goes to College and Career Fairs.

BUDGET at the Educational Center

• We have been through a number of budget cycles that have been very constraining. This has been one of the worse ones we have experienced here.
• The support services as been cut way back. The hours of operation for Admissions, EOPs, CalWORKS, have been cut because we are impacted and it hasn’t been good.
• Offering of classes was cut down to 2 classes scheduled here for the Winter. Out of 60 classes for the whole campus.
• It was suggested that we should just close up South Gate? Why open for just 2 classes.
• I reminded them that during the past summer some of the sister campuses offered no courses and the campus was not shut down.
• Fortunately, the good news yesterday (Nov. 6, 2012) was that Proposition 30 passed.
• Hopefully, we will fair better and things should be better.
• MSantoyo: We would only have 2 classes if Prop. 30 hadn’t passed?
• Part of the deal is that Chairs’ in the Contract assign the courses.
• e.g., AJ has only 4 classes for the Winter and those classes were assigned to the Main Campus. They forgot about So. Gate? I talked to Dr. Moyer and the President got involved. Now we have 10 classes assigned for the Winter.
• We can’t go before the Board and you’re expanding in this community and only offer 2 classes or have no classes assigned. That doesn’t hold well. This community has contributed tremendously to the overall ELAC growth and success.
• We have served the community well with a skeleton crew.
• With Prop. 30 we will be positioned better.
• Math Dept: we will be doing some supplemental instruction for the Spring. They are piloting this at the Main Campus. We are looking at 6 faculty (math instructors) that will hire tutors in the classroom. Those tutors will attend the classes and do workshops with small groups of students. They will also have office hours. They are modeling the program at the Main Campus and will be doing the SI program during the Spring at South Gate.
They will also be doing Math Mapping. It is a pilot project where they will be pairing math classes. They have a few students dropping out because they have a harder time keeping up. By the end of the 9 weeks, they add a few to take their place.

With Math there is a higher success level, than having a regular class. Something is working. We are looking forward to implementing that in the Spring over here.

In the English Department, they are doing something similar by combining English 26 and 28 in one semester.

EEi: I would just like to add that in the Fall 2013, we will be pairing Sociology and History to do a paired class and we are modeling this after the learning communities and hope to see greater success doing it that way as well.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

They have asked us to participate in a grant. (Handout.) The City of Los Angeles, HACLA, and the Work Enforcement Board (WIA). We worked with them in the past.

The grant requires that the community college partners with them.

Logistics is in there. Dean Flores with Career Tech, something we could collaborate on.

It would begin July 1, 2013.

This would focus on this area, the LA area.

SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES

South Gate, Maywood, Bell, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Vernon, Bell Gardens.

Cities all having difficult times over the past few years due to corruption.

Many City Council members being sentenced. Bell is a story unto itself.

The CA Community Foundation, with the news, decided to give us some money.

We have been doing civics classes here. We selected 10 emerging leaders from each of the SE cities. They applied and we have been training them covering a lot of issues that have to do with governing and civic participation.

We conducted the Focus group here.

Part of the problem is when you have council meetings and no one attends them, they get away with a lot of things. Not a lot of sophistication and no one going down to City Hall to find out what’s happening. We are trying to create awareness and understanding government so they can be more involved.
• We are seeing a lot of good leaders come out of this and students are also part of that.
• We will hire experts to conduct workshops.
• Next item, if the college decides to let us be the lead agency because the leadership in this community has asked us to fill this role, I am looking forward to it. A big issue in these communities is the infrastructure, countering to the Councils who are the only power sources. There are no other organizations, lack of community organization and organizing. Through this Professional Development Institute we want to work with nonprofit leaders, students, small business men and chambers. We want to get this synergy to come together so these communities can come together. We are still meeting and they want us to take the lead on this.
• You have a sample of some of the work shops, Developing Leaders, Becoming Advocates and Policy Makers of the Communities, Fiscal Management, Economic Development, etc.
• One of the issues there is regionalism. It is very important because they are such small cities.
• Why does each city need their own police department or their own fire department? Some resources can be regionalized, especially during hard budget times.
• Looking at other issues too, ethics is very much part of it.
• DLambert: Bell citizens were very vocal about being unhappy about what was happening and they did a great job. To give them more organization would be great.
• DGarcia: in Sociology. Obama was a community organizer. Are there some courses in how communities self organize?
• EEi: Yes, but not offered at ELAC or here. There is not an entire class on social movements or community organizing. There are faculty members who are really committed to there ideas. Earlier I mentioned sociology and history are getting together. On this campus it is Michael Collins and me. In last year’s minutes, the John W. Delloro Project was to be launched starting at this campus and was put off for the time and it is definitely in the making. We are still working on it and it will come. Part of the program will be about community organizing.
• ARios: That’s what is missing. Infrastructure and organization in these communities. Even in this area, South LA and LA, there is also some need there.
• DGarcia: In Chicano Studies too, how the movement started, all these things, sounds like there is a big role there.
• FLopez: We offer Chicano Politics here. We discuss grassroots politics.
• DGarcia: How to do it or the history?
• FLopez: We discuss both, tactics and strategies. But we haven’t formalized it in a workshop. We discuss strikes, boycotts, marches, assemblies, surveys.
• ARios: That’s what is happening here. The college is very much part of the community, we are an integral part of this. I will keep you posted as we move along with some of these projects. If any of you are interested in participating, I will invite you to attend one of the meetings. There are very important people involved because it has made national news, unfortunately, for the wrong reasons.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

• GLopez: We continue to have South Gate representation on the Violence Intervention Team, a very successful Committee at the Main Campus. October was the Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We had 2 lecture events with outside presenters that went very well, and a film screening. There was tabling with informational resources and HIV screening.
• ARios: We also had breast cancer awareness with class project displays of information and also some information on prostate cancer. One out of every eight women will get some sort of breast cancer and one out of every six men will get some sort of prostate cancer.
• We had a Political Awareness event focusing on Proposition 30. We had several hundred students attending with guest speakers and went through all the initiatives the ballot.
• From the Chair’s Meeting, Spring Printable Census Rosters. Everything is going online.
• Important Dates: Winter and Spring registration. (Handouts).
• Applications due for transferring to Cal St and Universities.
• Dreamers can apply for Financial Aid. Need to raise GPAs to 2.5.
• EEi: Which schools are offering Winter Session classes?
• Dean Flores: Very few colleges. He has a survey that he can forward, but very few colleges are offering any summer classes.
• ARios: Proposition 30 may add more classes for Spring.
• DLambert: Thank you to the Library for offering more work shops. Also, the Writing Center is offering services but is dividing her time between both campuses. We should have another English tutor at South Gate. She should get more help tutoring.
• EEi: Is there funding for tutors? We can let them know they can be S.I.’s or tutors and get paid for it. It helps with their own academics.
• ARios: When math and English departments had their budgets cut, they cut out South Gate tutoring. We haven’t had tutoring here since the beginning of the semester. Problems with hiring with the English department. We have issues we are working out. No problem with the math department. We hired math tutors.
• Plans to reinstate the shuttle service? Petitions are going around. Case will be made. Certain classes were canceled because of the shuttle. A lot of students were affected due to not having the shuttle. It isn’t an easy ride to the main campus.
• Cost $58-60K per semester for the shuttle. Gets cars off the street. Tough hill to climb.
• DGarcia: Did the opening of the library on campus have an affect on the So. Gate library? No. Kept the same hours. Wanted to cut evening hours, but it didn’t happen. G. Lopez is a full time librarian at South Gate.
• ARios: We need to have more full time faculty at South Gate. It is a disservice to the students not to have full timers. Administration is pushing that but it is difficult for Chairs to assign. It is very territorial.
• DGarcia: Wasn’t there going to be another high school built? Were they going to close one down or another high school because of the population? Isn’t it going to be by the new shopping area? It is built at Tweedy by the 710. The high school is open now.
• They built an occupational center in Bell by the 710. With the budget the way it is, good thing for Prop. 30. We are going to meet with them and see how we can partner with them.
• Demographics are here. It is strategically good for the campus. The students are a great pool of students hungry for education. We have improved the quality of life in all these communities. I’ve been here for a number of years. Lots of successful students have come back as lawyers and business people and professionals.
• DGarcia: is there an alumni situation here that you can draw some of these people into the Professional Development group?
• ARios: Some are elected officials.
• DLambert: Come back on a Career Day or as guest lecturers?
• LFlores: How are they paying the tutors? The CalWORKS program has a work study component. The State gives them money to hire students as CalWORKS participants. The program pays a percentage of the assignment and the county pays the rest through a work source center. You can hire them as tutors.
• ARios: We have hired through Cal WORKS where we pay a percentage and they pay the rest. We have to look into that.
• LFlores: Could the Work Source Center (through a business component) find someone to donate enough to pay for the shuttle? They could have a tax write off and we would have the shuttle for the students. Could we go through a local Chamber? Valley Colleges hire contract drivers through the MTA? Can that create a route from their campus to here? Something is better than nothing.
• Through ASU can they create a carpool? Can they rent cars through the college and use them? I know for a fact that they have that service at Berkeley
• EEi: They do that at USC. They call them ZIP cars. We could look at those ideas. Some private individuals lend out their cars. This service is done online and it is very communal based.
• GLopez: Is there any liability issues of students being in faculty cars? I heard that faculty should not transport students regularly.
• LFlores: As long as it is not done on a regular basis.
• ARios: We need to form a subcommittee of students to find out more information.
• LFlores: Located a number of local colleges not having a Winter session. Some were having very limited sessions.
• ARios: Students are very resourceful.
• LFlores: ELAC worked out a priority for only our students.
• Next meeting will be scheduled after the New Year.
• Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.