ITEM
1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order: President Zuliani called the meeting to order at 2:24

1.2 Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from 2/28/08 were approved.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 President’s Report: Zuliani reported on the formation of the new Basic Skills Committee, to be co-chaired by Katie Hearn and Patricia Shannon, the latter on an interim basis for Spring 08 while the BSI self-study is being prepared. Michael Thompson will take over for Patricia starting in Fall 08. Area representatives will report to the co-chairs. Regular meetings will be 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at College Hour in room 2223. ■ Zuliani reported that the Board of Trustees has approved the development of solar power installations (photo-voltaic panels on carport roofs) at the two campuses. At Chabot College, the 1.0 megawatt system will supply about 20% of the campus electricity needs. ■ Zuliani also reported that next week’s
special Senate meeting is going to be canceled, as she has concerns that our attendance might not make a quorum, and because she has an opportunity to give a presentation to some UC Berkeley faculty that day on her approach to generating Student Learning Outcome data, which emphasizes “incomes” as much as “outcomes.”

2.2 ASCC: Jove Meyer reported that ASCC members were disheartened by a report from the Feb. 28 meeting of the Facilities Committee, at which interior design standards for classrooms, offices and other campus spaces were presented. At issue is where models of the design standards will be placed for review by members of the campus community. The students had heard that the display was to be situated at a location intentionally free from student traffic, as though they (students) would naturally “trash” the models; the students were frustrated by the sense that their participation in the review process, as users of the facilities, was being deliberately avoided. Meyer pointed out that students are indeed interested in the construction projects, and suggested that if more and better information were available (that is, if people could readily find models or designs of the improvements for which the campus is being torn up to create) students might be happier and more willing to abide the inconveniences of Parking Lot J. Jim Matthews offered that the library is a natural venue for the display of models, floor plans, and other information on the progress of Measure B construction. Dave Fouquet pointed out that many of the facilities documents (including plans, progress reports, and so on) are already available on the college and district websites; perhaps we could cajole Susan May and the campus webmaster to work with the Facilities people to make up-to-date information easier to find.

2.3 CLPFA: Dave Fouquet reported that the new contracts have been distributed to Full-time faculty mailboxes. ■ Summer sick leave is a mess; expression of summer sick leave was to be converted from days to hours and combined with the sick-leave balance for part-time/overload work. Due to the hard-set standards by which sick leave is accounted in Banner, the District has been as yet unable to comply with that provision; the District and FA are working to figure out how to get this done. ■ Fouquet reported (from the Facilities Committee) that the recent discovery of underground piping not shown on the charts is requiring new trenching that will reduce access to the Villas: Both the stairs and the ramp on the west side (closest to the child care center) will be closed for the rest of this week and all of next week. The goal is to have full access to the Villas restored by the time people return from Spring Break. ■ Fouquet also pointed out the over the next 18 months, a new interior campus road will emerge that will run from the north entrance to Lot B, across the front of campus (parallel to Hesperian Blvd.) and through Lots G and H, and let out at Depot Road just east of where the Villas are now. This is presented for information purposes, in case anyone has ideas of how such a road might be named.

2.4 Senators: Jim Matthews reported on the lively Mark Schapiro talk that occurred this week at the library. ■ Matthews also announced that the librarians will soon be inviting faculty colleagues to another “Weed and Wine party. Matthews explained that purpose of the event is to “weed” the book shelves; further, in order to encourage colleague participation they will be serving wine, for which permission has been specifically obtained. ■ Susan Gill: Expressed worries that students are not seeking out their faculty members at their temporary offices (at the Villas). This is an access problem to a large extent: the signs currently posted do not adequately describe the pedestrian routes; further, the routes they do describe are often closed off. Dave Fouquet suggested that Doug Horner might be enlisted to facilitate the production of a graphic with instructions on how to find the Villas. Horner has already performed a similar service to help people find the overflow parking lots; the graphics are .pdf format, and are easily printed and distributed via email.
2.5 Public Comments: None.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS:

3.1 Approval of Art on Campus Documents: Senators expressed approval of the Art on Campus documents, which Zuliani will present to the Board of Trustees on April 1st.

4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Cameras in the Labs: Farhad Javaheripour reported on a proposal to install cameras in various campus labs (e.g. science labs) in order to help prevent theft of equipment. He explained they may have difficulty going forward with the proposal, due to insistence from the Faculty Association that implementation of such a plan needs to be negotiated. (Fouquet typing the minutes interjects that the FA is generally willing to sit down and talk about such things, but admin has to step up to the plate.)

Banner Chart of Accounts: Javaheripour presented and discussed a handout that details the new campus “organization” account codes proposed for district budgets and accounts. He pointed out which digits in the organization code are used to denote the campus and division to which an account pertains. The new account codes would reduce the number of accounts that each manager has to administer. Currently, a department could have more than one account for similar budget items to manage. Also, he hopes that fewer account codes will reduce the number of transfers that require board approval. Implementation of the new codes would be for the 2008-2009 academic year. Dave Fouquet asked how accounts will be transitioned from old codes to new codes. Javaheripour explained how several accounts under the old system may become a single account under the new system, and that all the expenditures under the old system will be manually linked and aggregated into the new org code at the beginning of the fiscal year.

4.2 Update on Student Learning Outcomes: Barbara Ogman reported on the development of a new cycle for the assessment of SLO’s, which will be flexible enough to allow varied methods of performing the required tasks. (e.g. eLumin software helps some faculty assess their SLO’s; those for whom the software is ill suited are not required to use it.) The SLO Committee wants the process to be meaningful, insofar as SLO’s encourage us to become “reflective practitioners.” The committee wants the process to produce useful results; they also seek to provide some cohesion for the myriad (often monumental) efforts in student learning that take place all over campus. Susan Gill said that we’ve heard this kind of talk before and nothing ever changes. Further, she wondered why the accreditation process seems to presume from the beginning that we’re not “reflective practitioners”. Sherri Yeager asked why we can’t have just one cycle that includes all of these things. People are tired of working hard to express program needs and requests for funding—in their program reviews, unit plans, discipline plans, etc.—only to see those requests go utterly ignored. Zuliani said she was encouraged that this year we have new IPBC leadership promising to make the Unit Plan process meaningful. Jim Matthews suggested that a bright side of the new accreditation standards is that revision of practices based on recommendations are now supposed to occur within two years. This should be an incentive for faculty to participate now, because it really is supposed to produce real consideration for allocation of resources. Michael Thompson expressed frustration in the process, as well as a lack of trust that requirements are sufficiently transparent as to be workable. Yeager is also worried over the question of what is expected of faculty members if desired outcomes are not realized.
Yeager stated that these “accountability initiatives” always seem to leave it up to faculty to change; she wondered if we, as faculty, need to document that we’re following each item on the Basic Skills list of 26 best practices? At some point student inputs (as opposed to student learning outcomes) such as preparation for the classes in which they’re enrolled, needs to factor into the equation. Gill continued to be worried over the dogmatic aspects of SLO’s. Zuliani expressed gratitude to the SLO committee’s goal of being flexible, e.g., not requiring the use of eLumin; e.g., encouraging faculty members to write and assess SLO’s they actually think are useful. Nancy Cowan expressed hope that good things might come of this, for she’s generally interested in anything that might help produce nursing students with better basic skills such as are required for safe and effective practice in the medical field. Dov Hassan, who is the parent of a 4th grader, said he’s in the process of becoming horrified by “No Child Left Behind,” and wants reassurance that the practice of SLO’s in the colleges doesn’t devolve into one in which institutions are evaluated solely on the basis of standardized test scores. Matthews, speaking as a faculty member who has served on site-visit teams for the accreditation process, pointed out that even though the SLO concept comes from a nationwide discussion and is being pushed by the US Department of Education, the site-visit teams are comprised of members from other California community colleges (administrators, board members and faculty), who only want the college to create SLOs that can be used by faculty to improve instruction and that the process be documented. Zuliani reminded us that we really should take advantage of the current ACCJC policy giving faculty the autonomy to decide what our SLOs should be, since the Feds originally tried to dictate them to us; fortunately, the national accrediting bodies stepped in to prevent that. Dave Fouquet offered an example of a problem math faculty have encountered with SLOs: mathematics courses have such packed curricula that, given the declining preparation of our students, it has become increasingly difficult to cover key formulas and processes at the necessary level of depth. Fouquet speculated that this hinders us from instilling in our students a critical and self sufficient ability to recall key formulas through logical extrapolation, as opposed to rote memory; he wondered if SLO’s are flexible enough to provide a framework for a study in which math faculty might try covering certain key topics in full depth, perhaps at the expense of topics of lesser importance—to see if we can produce more independent thinkers who enjoy greater success in the courses that follow. Ogman’s response was positive; she said she could envision several approaches to mounting such an inquiry.

4.3 Senate Recognition Ceremony: Nancy Cowan announced that the ceremony is slated for May 8, immediately following the retirement ceremony. Cowan asked senators to take this information to their divisions (including division deans), and to think about who deserves recognition, what would be included in the write-ups, etc. Our next Senate meeting is April 10; senators are asked to come to that meeting prepared with suggestions on whom we’d like to nominate to be recognized.

4.4 Letters to Assemblymember Hayashi: Senate approved sending letters to Hayashi in support of AB 1909 and AB 2804.

5.0 REPORTS II

Senate Committees: None

6.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER
Future Agenda items
   Compressed Calendar— Ron Taylor
   Academic Council— Jane Church
   Chancellor’s Budget Workshop— Mike Absher

Adjournment at: 4:30
Next Meeting: April 10th, 2008
Spring Meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2:15 in the Board Room.
df/jm