I. CALL TO ORDER (11:05)
A. Public Comment
John Colson:
John announced that Grossmont College would be celebrating Black History Month February 1st thru 28th. He distributed a flyer highlighting the list of events planned.

Gregg Robinson:
Gregg announced there is a vacancy on the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board and that AFT was asking for faculty to approve the endorsement of Sharon Hendrix for the position. Gregg noted that most of the board is comprised of representatives from the K-12 and Sharon would represent the community college voice. She is a former community college faculty member. Gregg asked permission to circulate a petition to have Sharon endorsed by AFT as a candidate; there were no objections to doing so.

B. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made to approve the day’s agenda.
M/S/U Montejano/Flores

C. Approval of Minutes from January 31, 2011
A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 31, 2011.
M/S/U Holder/Robinson

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
A. Budget Update-Tim Flood and Barbara Blanchard
Tim Flood with Barbara Blanchard gave a brief update on the budget situation. Tim noted that the State budget continues to include major cuts to community colleges. He reviewed the current cuts and the impact on both the district and Grossmont College. The District Strategic Planning and Budget Committee is working with three possible scenarios regarding the June Tax packages: one – if voters approve continuation of a tax package; two – if the tax package fails or is not placed on the ballot, and Prop 98 is minimally funded; three – if the tax package fails and Prop 98 is suspended. All three scenarios deal with a reduction in funding to the district; for more information www.ccleague.net/district-budget-impact.

Grossmont is currently serving students over FTES and GC will face more section reductions in order to bridge the shortfall. Barb explained that the Enrollment Strategies Committee is working closely with Department Chairs to find the best possible solutions for section cuts. She noted they would have a more in depth presentation for the Chairs and Coordinators meeting the following Monday, February 14, 2011. In closing Tim noted that the District Planning and Budget Council would be meeting that afternoon at 2:00pm in Griffin Gate and if anyone would like more in depth information to please attend. More information regarding the State budget and the impact on the California Community Colleges can be found at www.ccleague.org.

*Intranet site for more information: You’ll need to log in:
III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Legislative Program-Dana Quittner

Dana began by giving a brief overview of what the Legislative Program does for GC; it works to identify areas of importance to GC and the district in broadest terms. When an issue arises, the district can take action to support or oppose the issue. She explained that it is a two-year process to create and approve this Legislative Program, and it is in place for two years. A question was raised about the word “duplication,” which the District would seek to avoid. Answer: this is an attempt to reduce duplication in work submitted to the state, so that colleges and districts are not forced to make a number of the same submissions in different forms, etc.

A motion was made to support the Legislative Program as delineated.
M/S/ Holder/Sim
Motion passes with 4 opposed/2 abstentions

B. Bill Bradley as Emeritus

A motion was made to approve Bill Bradley as Emeritus.
M/S/U Sim/Montejano

C. Replacement of Senate Officer for this semester

A motion was made to approve Jennifer Carmean as Senate Officer at Large for the Spring semester.
M/S/U Passentino/Goodman

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. GC Academic Senate Constitution: Section 5. Quorum
Sue explained that a quorum for our purposes is a “simple majority” of the Senators present at the meeting that day. One of the Senate Officers will count those who signed in to the meeting to determine the number for quorum.

B. Faculty Accreditation Co-Chair

Sue reminded the Senate that Chris Hill had been approved by this body the previous semester as the Faculty Accreditation Co-Chair. She explained that Chris would like to continue on as the Accreditation Co-Chair, since her duties as interim Dean is only for the semester. The duties of Accreditation Co-Chair this semester is only gather teams for the project and develop a timeline. After some discussion, an informal show of hands revealed that the majority concurred with this arrangement.

C. Streamlining Call for Awards Nominations

To make it easier for people to nominate individuals for awards, an email will be sent out jointly by Sue Gonda, Pat Murray and Sunny Cooke listing the various awards and how to nominate individuals for those awards. The recipients of most of those awards will receive them at the annual College Recognition Ceremony in May.

D. Call for Part-Time Senate Officer

Sue announced a temporary Part-Time Senate Officer at Large was needed for the Spring Semester. The Part-Time Officer would attend the Senate Officer Committee meetings (every Wednesday 11:00am), the Senate meetings, as well as the Academic Senate Part-Time Faculty Committee meetings (the 4th Monday of the Month). Senate Officer elections for the two-year positions are taking place this semester, so this is only for the Spring term. David Milroy volunteered; any other interested individuals should contact her before the next meeting when the Senators will vote.

E. Institutional Excellence Task Force and Faculty Research Liaison - Background

Sue began by explaining that the Institutional Excellence Task Force had been formed after a series of events. First, Grossmont and the District participated in the California Leadership Alliance for Student Success (“CLASS”), an initiative sponsored by the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas, Austin. A series of presentations last year educated the Governing Board and was open to personnel from all District sites about the student success programs at both colleges, along with data about our students and their success rates. GCCCD was one of 15 districts in the state to participate in this program.

The District was also one of 15 awarded to participate in the BRIC Initiative: “Bridging Research Information and Culture.” Sponsored by the Research & Planning Group of the California Community Colleges, this program provides technical assistance to campuses “in strengthening their capacities to collaboratively analyze and act on information, thereby strengthening cultures of inquiry and
Grossmont was given feedback about how to include the entire college community in gathering evidence and structuring processes to analyze the data for college decisions. From individual faculty members to departments to college-wide committees, the goal is to make data more available and user-friendly for everyone to use.

Third, after a cadre of faculty, staff and administrators attended a local Institutional Effectiveness conference in June, 2010. College leaders were then poised to discuss how to use all this information. In Fall, 2010, those who attended the conference and key leaders on campus were called together by Chris Hill and Sunny Cooke for a collaborative Institutional Excellence Task Force. (see attached list of membership positions) The Goal of the Task Force: “Develop a coordinated, organizational framework in which data can be generated, analyzed, discussed, and used to inform plans of action that will produce optimal conditions for student learning and success.” (POSTSCRIPT: These meetings are co-organized by Chris Hill and Sunny Cooke; meetings are led by Chris, with Sunny usually taking notes.)

After several meetings and reviewing feedback from the BRIC interviews with our campus personnel, the Task Force recommended that a faculty member be given release time to help faculty, departments, and committees to obtain and analyze data. The Faculty Research Liaison position was created (and approved by the District Release Time Committee) and Shirley Pereira was selected for the position.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 pm
Next meeting is Scheduled for March 7, 2011 Griffin Gate 11:00-12:20pm
SG: rw