

**Antelope Valley College
Associated Student Organization
Executive Council Special Minutes
3041 West Ave K, Lancaster, CA 93536
Monday, November 3, 2008
Student Lounge, 6:00 PM
Corrected**

The Executive Council of the Antelope Valley College met on November 3, 2008. For more information, please contact Associated Student Organization President John Cabral 722- 6300 ext 6725.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

1.1 Call to order: 6:10 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by President John Cabral

1.3 Roll Call:

President – John Cabral - Present

Vice President, Academic Affairs - Shunnon Thomas - Present

Vice President, Student Services – Timne Randolph - Present

Vice President, Club Affairs – Bernadine Sewell - Present

Vice President, Public Relations – Bennie Hawkins– Present

Treasurer – Elijah Blanton - Present

Secretary – Roxanne Schleben - Present

Senator:

Business, Computer Studies and Economic Development– Jessica Theologydy – Present

Counseling and Matriculation–Jonmmica Walter– Present

Enrollment Services – Chad Wood - Present

Health Sciences – Andrew Douglass - Present

Instructional Resources – Michelle Ellis - Present

Language Arts – Sam Swartz - Absent

Mathematics, Science and Engineering – Zuleika Hernandez - Absent

Social and Behavioral Sciences – Curtis Smith - Absent

Student Development and Student Services – Sean Izquierdo - Present

Technical Education – Mihaela Blidaescu - Absent

Visual and Performing Arts – Johnatan Olguin – Present

Membership is 18, Quorum is 10, 14 were present, Quorum is established.

Student Trustee – Elizabeth Soos – Absent

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda:

Moved to adopt the agenda by Senator Andrew Douglass, seconded by VPSS Time Randolph. Motion passed 13/0/0.

Move to revisit roll call by VPSS Timne Randolph, seconded by VPCA Bernadine Sewell, Motion passed 12/0/1.

President – John Cabral - Present

Vice President, Academic Affairs - Shunnon Thomas - Present

Vice President, Student Services – Timne Randolph - Present

Vice President, Club Affairs – Bernadine Sewell - Present

Vice President, Public Relations – Bennie Hawkins– Present

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Instructional Resources – Michelle Ellis - Present
Language Arts – Sam Swartz - Absent
Mathematics, Science and Engineering – Zuleika Hernandez - Absent
Social and Behavioral Sciences – Curtis Smith - Present
Student Development and Student Services – Sean Izquierdo - Present
Technical Education – Mihaela Blidaescu - Present
Visual and Performing Arts – Johnatan Olguin – Present

Membership is 18, Quorum is 10, 16 were present, Quorum is established.

Student Trustee – Elizabeth Soos – Absent

II. PUBLIC FORUM

Dr Zimmerman- Mr. Fox, if you would like to have five minutes to speak uninterrupted, I suggest that you take the opportunity to speak under public forum.

Steve Fox- Thank you for inviting me. My name is Steve Fox, former Student Trustee of the Los Angeles Community College District, I am currently the Vice President of the Board. I would like to pass out a few hand outs to you. My understanding is that you want additional information on what is happening with the board so I put together the agenda items that I requested be put on the board for the next meeting, a letter from Mayor Ledford and an article from the AV press, its obviously slanted, its one party line as opposed to another, but at least it gives you an idea.

When measure R passed, I was not part of the college although I was once a student and later a professor. Like the regular taxpayers, I was concerned about Measure R. Although it was vague, I think it had the best of intentions. It did include a south valley campus and classes, but not a theater arts program. It was so vague you could legally put anything into it. There were definitely a list of ideas and intentions considering the building. What nobody could really see was that inflation hit hard and, even though all the projects are good projects and there are no bad projects, the inflation hit so hard there wasn't enough money for every one. The question comes up: what do you do? The average taxpayer who read Measure R saw the Palmdale campus. Almost half your residents are from Palmdale, 36% of your campus is from Palmdale. A lot of them are taxpayers. They voted on Measure R thinking there would be a campus in Palmdale. Whether you agree that there should be one or not, the fact is that the average voter saw the south valley campus. The funds for the campus that were requested were approximately 60 million that is about 11.5% of the 139 million of Measure R. Palmdale may have been a little less than half the vote, but it was going to get 11.5% of the money, obviously that estimate was a lie. According to the Palmdale City Council, our college representatives went to the city council and put together the transcripts and made the representation that this was going to happen. Frankly, I believed that; I believed that all the projects would be built. They believed that all of the projects would be built. Unfortunately, inflation hit. The problem is, since inflation hit, you can't built everything and at what point did the board get informed, at what point who makes the decisions as to what projects you should have or not have. You look at that on the basis of what the voters relied on and keep in mind that if you want another bond extension, that Palmdale vote is still important. If they do

not get what they believe they are due, they are not going to vote for it. You have to please all your voters, which may not be possible when you have so many good projects. So, one of the issues is learning how to be ethically and morally responsible. The other is what is best for our campus. I used to be on the hospital board and I could tell you that you get more for your money if you expand on an existing campus. But is still pushed primary care facilities in Palmdale and Littlerock because that is what the public wanted. There are a lot of people who want the Palmdale campus. What happened was, in my position, I was given hints that there were inflation problems, but I was never told that we were given a choice. So when the administration came to us and said 'this is what is left, these are already set in motion, you have to do this, you have to use the bond money in 3 years or you will lose it,' the board felt that it had no choice. So the mayor sent out a letter stating that it does not have to be used in 3 years, only 85%. So I was given misinformation about where that the money had to be used. So now I have my administration giving the correct information about where the money has to be used. I go to city council meetings and I am yelled at by city councilmen saying, 'where is our money, where we not promised this?' And I understand their position. If we had said a couple years ago that we did not have the money and we wanted to make a decision, and everyone was included, even if we decided that the best decision was to build on this campus, it would have been over this. The issue needs to come forward. I go to the city council meetings and I get yelled at there, I go to our own meetings and those people without an interest in what we are building yell at me. Wherever I go I get yelled at.

Dr Zimmerman- you are at five minutes.

Timne Randolph- I have a question. You sit here on the board and this letter was drafted from your law office. It seems to me that there is a conflict right here. **Steve Fox-** The college would get upset if I used their stationary. I gave it my secretary to type up. I signed it as a board member. **Timne Randolph-** your position as a board member together with the Palmdale issue, seem like a conflict. When I sit at the meetings, sometimes I cannot understand which side you are on. **Steve Fox-** First, I signed it as a trustee. Number two, I am on the public side, the both Palmdale and Lancaster. The entire public voted on Measure R. I went with the 6,000 vote majority over one of the incumbents. I try to represent everyone. Everyone voted on Measure R. How do I interpret that as a board member? The Palmdale campus was on the list of projects on Measure R. Who is to chose between the projects? The board is conservative and very responsible, they are probably not going to make any choices. This subject matter needs to be discussed. The members of the public have the right to give an opinion. I am the representative of the general public, we have 6,000 voters and the other county above us. I try to do my best to represent all of them. **Timne Randolph-** You say that you represent the general public. My undemanding is that you are a board member for Antelope Valley College. **Steve Fox-** No, I am a board member for the district. I do not represent the college, I represent the public.

They hire the CEO, the superintendent, the president of the college, they make the decisions. We decide whether we want a second college, we decide whether we set policy. They represent the college, I represent the public. **Timne Randolph-** If you do not represent the college, why are you a board member on the AVC board? **Steve Fox-** because I represent the public in the college district. **Timne Randolph-** In the student government standard 4-B, it states that as a board member you are supposed to act in the best interest of the college. **Steve Fox-** I agree. **Timne Randolph-** If you are acting in the best interest of the public, you can't act in the best interest of the college. **Steve Fox-** I think the two are synonymous. I am acting in the best interest of the college. I was on the hospital board for 14 years nobody always agreed with me there. I was a student trustee in the Los Angeles Community College District, there I was more of a student representative, but is still looked at it in the best interest of the educational process of the students. In the Los Angeles Community College District, I represented the students in 10

colleges, here I represent one college. There is nothing to say we cannot have two or three or whatever you need. Right now we have a temporary campus on Palmdale Boulevard with 650 full time students. We felt there was a need to have a temporary campus there to give more access to more students. So, we do have more than one area where we are teaching at. But, you are right we do have to act in the best interest of- instead of college, I rather say we are educational process administrators. **Timne Randolph-** Right, but as a board member you have to act in the best interest of the college. **Steve Fox-** is that the Educational Code? **Timne Randolph-** No, it's the Accreditation Standards. **Steve Fox-** And that could be their opinion and reasonable minds differ. But I believe that they are synonymous and mean the same thing. I am responsible for the best interest of the college, but hope that is also the best interest of the public and electorate. I want to do what is best for your educational process. I take a look at the whole picture. **Timne Randolph-** That being said, in the best interest of the college, is there a conflict of interest with your involvement with the city of Palmdale and their lawsuit? **Steve Fox-** They don't have a lawsuit, they said there will be one. I endorse their investigations. If there is nothing to hide, there should be no problems **Timne Randolph-** If there is a conflict of interest because you are backing their current investigation, wouldn't that imply that you are not acting in the best interest of the college? **Steve Fox-** What would be wrong with me saying, 'as a board member, I would like to have tabs on the investigation?' Don't I have that responsibility? If I think there is something wrong, if I think I should have been told about this inflation being so bad, is there anything wrong with me as a board member? Do I lose rights as a member of a public by being a board member? **Timne Randolph-** Not at all, but it does not mean that you can go to an outside entity, the board being separate from the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster? **Steve Fox-** The outside entity invited the board as a whole to show up. Earl Wilson and myself were the only ones who showed up.

Bernadine Sewell- Earlier you said that if you had not brought this forward, we would not have an opinion. **Steve Fox-** I did not say you would not have an opinion, I wanted to make it more of a public equate so that the board would have the full opportunity as it should have had a couple of years ago when it was more timely to have a choice.

Bernadine Sewell- You also stated that you were not told because of the economy that the Palmdale campus would not go forward. I find you to be an intelligent man, you are an attorney. You never stopped to think, you never stopped to ask? **Steve Fox-** I did ask. If you are told, 'come to our groundbreaking, here is your 5 million dollars worth of property,' wouldn't you assume there is enough money for a building? **Bernadine Sewell-** That is an assumption. **Steve Fox-** This massive inflation these past few years I talk to the administration and asked for the administrative priorities and I spoke to the head of the committee that oversees a bond and they knew two years ago that there wasn't enough money, but the board was not told to make the choice. I did ask questions and I said we need over 500 students consistently at our temporary location. Its supposedly 650 now and its taken us over 4 years to get here. Over a year ago I said, why don't we go to some of the companies in the area and ask them what they want taught. We've done this before for Trader Joes and for other companies, so there is precedent. I was told that we were going to do a survey and spend a 100,000 dollars. This was never done. So we were lead to believe- here is your survey, here is your groundbreaking, were working on getting you a campus- all the little pieces that would tell you there is enough money. **Bernadine Sewell-** It would seem like you were on the board if you were not so on the outside looking in. The way you put it you are on the outside looking in. From the way you put it you are the board member that did not have access to all of this. There is a rumor that the reason you are making a lot of your moves is because you are running for Palmdale Mayor and that is why you are so concerned that the Palmdale site is stood up for; because it benefits you more than it does Antelope Valley College. **Steve Fox-** Good analysis, but here is the thing, that type of attack has been argued once before. My son applied to be one of the reserves and the moment that Dr. Fisher fired the twelve who were approximate reserve officers, I was told that the reason I was standing up for the

police is because my son had applied to be one of the reserves. Nice argument, but it does not fit. My son is a full-time officer. They used that as a red- herring to distract you. Yes, I've looked at it, I'm interested in city council, I haven't decided yet. I might just stay here at the college just as I stayed at the hospital for 14 years. Its an nice argument, but I haven't decided yet what I'm going to do. That isn't the issue. Just as firing the police department that I asked the board to reinstate. It wasn't the argument made 'your son applied to be a reserve.' It's a nice argument, a nice distraction, but it does not work.

Roxanne Schleben- could you summarize that? **Steve Fox-** Bottom line, it's a really good question, but it's a red herring to get you distracted from the issue. The issue is, and I'm not the only one with this issue, you have all these people who voted for Measure R and believed there would be a south valley campus who are paying on their property tax- this is a property tax bill- who are not happy. Just because they live in Palmdale, just because they are in the city council and making noise, does not make them wrong.

John Cabral- On Measure R there was not anything concrete that stated there would be a campus in Palmdale. **Steve Fox-** It mentioned a south valley campus. This was one of the things on the list. **John Cabral-** but there was nothing guaranteed. **Steve Fox-** There was nothing guaranteed, but at the time, if inflation had not hit, there would have been enough money for everything they wanted. Measure R was written very vague, but the city council say that our representatives went to their council and tramped their busy with transcripts and said we give you representation, you voted for this and this is what you are going to get. Measure R was written too vague and ambiguous and we believe we can do whatever we want. But is it really right? That is the representation. **John Cabral-** You have to admit that they did purchase a campus locale. **Steve Fox-** It might be five million dollars of dirt, and I am not sure that it is the best dirt, I think that we want more than that. We want classrooms and students. You can't say, 'here is your dirt, you should be satisfied.' **John Cabral-** But that is a start. **Steve Fox-** that is a start, but nothing to back it up.

Jonathan Olguin- If Measure R talked about expansion, wouldn't buying property be an expansion, whether or not we build a building due to inflation. The college is making an honest effort to do something on campus because if we were not, we would not purchase that land. Now we cannot afford to build buildings in Palmdale, but does that keep us from acquiring future funds for that? **Steve Fox-** Good Question. First, they knew about the inflation before they bought the property, which is interesting. The answer is maybe. Here is the thing: there are two tracks to get money. Using Measure R you get the matching funds. You spend the 16 million dollars you were scheduled to in Measure R, you get the matching funds for a sum of 54 million. The other track is that they pass a state bond measure. You have the 500 full time students, self sustaining classrooms, and the property; you could apply. The last state initiative did not pass. That being the case, there is a chance that another one will not get passed for a long time. The bigger fear I have is that we would probably have to resection R to build on this campus. If that goes before the voters now, unless we say, 'you are going to get your just deserves, your fair share,' they are not going to vote for it. You are absolutely correct, but when I go to their meetings, I am listening to their constituents over there, they are not entirely thrilled. If you were paying outside your pocket for property taxes, you did not get what you thought, would you vote again for more taxing if you did not think you were going to get what you wanted?

Timne Randolph- I have a very serious question. You are taking about the Palmdale campus as though it is supposed to be a replica of what is here. **Steve Fox-** It does not have to be. **Timne Randolph-** No, but that is the manner in which you are speaking to us right now. If we already have classes in session right now, you said that we already have 650 full time students over there? **Steve Fox-** I think they put the people on the computer and added that to the number. We rented the buildings and nothing said that it has to be mirror image. You are absolutely right. We gave a good look into it: is there another

school there and we would not have to pay the permits and we could buy their campus or rent their campus? **Timne Randolph**- What I get from what you are saying and from what you handed out and from my own research is that Palmdale wants their campus in their domain and they feel they were bamboozled by the representation of Measure R and that has not turned out to be the case when inflation is out of the college's control. Everyone in this room is affected by inflation. This is not something that just affects the college. This is world wide. These things are not being taken into consideration when land is purchased. Maybe the board felt that we purchased the land for 5 million dollars because it was good prime realty and the price we had to pay at the time. But we are still doing other things to complete our agreement in Measure R to move to the next stage in Measure R. Then, I do not understand why Palmdale thinks they are losing out just because it is not being put up right now. **Steve Fox**- Because, first of all, you are only going to get 11.5% of the money. Overall, we are one district, and the classes here are still going to serve the people in Palmdale. On the other hand, when you are the one footing the bill for the representation made for you and you don't get what you thought you were voting for, are you really going to support me again?

John Cabral- I would like to give a chance to everyone to ask questions.

Elijah Blanton- All I see is that it will force other measures to be more specific. **Steve Fox**- I agree with you wholeheartedly. The question is: do you think that the people who voted feel betrayed do you think they can trust us as an administration to do what we said we were going to do? **Elijah Blanton**- Technically they are doing what they said they were going to do. **Steve Fox**- Legally they are, but there is a question of ethically and morally. Remember, when people vote for something, they have to believe or trust in what they are voting for. That is not a question of legally or not legally, that is a question of trust.

John Cabral- That is one of the problems with the last board meeting and when this actually came forward directly from your law office, this looking more like you are advocating for yourself. **Steve Fox**- I was afraid if I used college stationary I would be attacked saying that 'you don't represent the college as a whole,' so I just used my own stationary. **John Cabral**- But as Timne was saying earlier, this campus is up for accreditation and you being on the board, technically supposed to be representing this college's best interest, not representing its best interests by attacking the board's decision which you sit on. Not only that, but we are up for accreditation and you threaten that in the sense that you are suppose to protect not only the best interest of the people, as you said, but also the best interest of the students and the college. And by directly attacking their decision, and then working the decision out with them about how to use their money. **Steve Fox**- Do you know when someone uses a red herring to tell you fear is what should control, as oppose to logic? The accreditation committee came in last time, sat with me, and actually liked what I had to say. My main thing is to view issues from all sides of the box, compare, contrast different ideas. They were very happy with that concept. I do not know if you have read the any articles on civil disobedience. What it is is when you complain, you are complaining with the hopes that the rest of the society recognize what you are saying is right and they will change their minds. I do not think that this threatens accreditation at all, and if I did, would not talk about it. I did sit down with the committee and they were extremely happy about talking to me, far more than anybody else. They liked the idea that I want to compare, contrast, you want to break controversy, we want to use democracy in action. I don't see as a threat to your accreditation.

Bernadine Sewell- I have something to read from an article. Its from Solano Community College: 'Part of the reason the college's accreditation renewal is less than certain is due to what the commission sees as the board being too deeply involved in day to day operations and their bickering and fighting amongst themselves and not getting out of the

way and letting the president do his job.' That is just from one college. Then it says that they ask board members to attend retreats for micromanagement. Have you been to classes to learn how to be an effective board member? It also talked about trust, do you feel that you are creating some of this mistrust against your own board? You are advocating it. **Steve Fox-** I don't think healthy democracy is mistrusting and this board is not really backing each other. What I am attacking is the duty and responsibility. I should be setting policy. First of all, the legal responsibility, if something happens, I get sued. We are responsible to the general public and or we do not get reelected. The answer to your question on how I'm qualified, and then we'll get to the question of micromanaging vs. setting policy, is: I think the policy should be set on what buildings should be the worst prerogative with input from the community. I think micromanaging is saying 'go put the red paint and then the blue paint on the stairs.' I don't micromanage. But I do think it is my responsibility to accept that I have to choose between building what is best for my college. I was not given that chance to set the policy that I believe is my responsibility. To answer your question, I don't want to say I know better, I don't know better than any of you. My vote is worth the same yours is, but if you ask for qualification, I've been an elected official for 22 years sitting at different boards: Chairman of the Resource District, Chairman of the Antelope Valley Hospital for two years. I was Chairman of the Building Committee for 10 years. I find it amazing that I don't get that option, what I had at the hospital to look at the blueprints, to look at everything that costs twice and why. Why aren't I getting the same kind of information that I had as an elected public official for 14 years in your local hospital? Am I qualified for the college? I was a junior high school teacher for ten years, I taught at the college for six, I was a student here, I was custodian at Valley College, I was the student trustee representing the students of ten colleges. Do not know everything about education, I am the first to say that I make mistakes, but I am qualified because I have been an elected official representing you for over two decades. Think I have great qualifications. **Bernadine Sewell-** I have a question on micromanage. You say you are not micromanaging- red paint, blue paint on the steps- but you want to take the theater building funds and redirect them to Palmdale. That is not micromanagement? **Steve Fox-** That is policy. If you have a 139 million and you have to decide where it goes, I am not telling you how to build your buildings, I am saying which buildings I want to get you to build. At what point do I get to set policy. By the way, I do think that everything will get built, but I do not think that the board is with me on that. Where I think things are probably going to end up is-the over estimates, I think a lot of these projects were overestimated- that by bringing up what I have brought up, the board may look at taking the overestimates and applying them to Palmdale. I think the \$ 600,000 that the campus gets for redevelopment will end up toward the Palmdale campus too. By bringing up these issues, I think I will get some positive results, even though I don't think that I will end up canceling anything.

Treasurer Elijah Blanton Point of Personal Privilege at 6:42 pm

Timne Randolph- A couple things. One, you said you want to have a say on how funds are allocated. This college does not even have that privilege. Measure R dictates how funds are spend by the state. Secondly, I know that you are an attorney from the facts presented to me. **Steve Fox-** I won't use my stationary anymore.

Senator Michelle Elis Point of Personal Privilege at 6:46 pm

Timne Randolph- At what point did you think that this might be a problem because you are representing something that might be in conflict. **Steve Fox-** Do I have rights as board member to put things on the agenda? **Timne Randolph-** Yes, you do. **Steve Fox-** And that is exactly what I was doing. I did not want to be accused of the college of using its stationary. **Timne Randolph-** My greatest question is: you don't think that the things that have transpired thus far present a conflict of interest. What in your mind defines a

conflict of interest? **Steve Fox-** I think when you have a pecuniary financial interest, you have to by law, state what the conflict is, and then you have to legally define the participant. That is what the government says. I have no financial interest in this whatsoever, otherwise I would have to state it, decline to be a participant in discussion, not even abstaining, not even vote, walk out of the room. I have done that in a number of boards when I have felt that I might have even an intimate repine. I do not see such a thing here.

Chad Wood- You keep bringing up the ethical and moral issue. You made it appear as though we were promising it to them and not giving it to them. Where is the moral obligation toward the student at this campus? I myself was music major and not a film major, having a theater arts building would be greatly advantageous for the college. Where is the moral for the issue for the students here at this program. We have a good arts program already, having a theater here can only benefit us. The theater that we have now is not even a theater, it's a workshop. It's a place where you can build things and shove a couple of chairs in there. Most of our theater goes to the LPAC, which is a waste of money because if we had our own theater we could bring our business here. There is an obligation to the student here, especially the arts student. **Shannon Thomas-** Point of information, a Lawyer from Palmdale brought up that nowhere in Measure R is there is theater program, but the theater is part of the classroom, its just a big classroom. **Steve Fox-** We have a moral obligation to every department. The question comes up: There is a budget, there has to be a choices.

John Cabral- I would like to elaborate on the building projects. Are you mostly against the stadium? **Steve Fox-** I am not against any of the projects. I think all the projects are good. What I am for is when we conclude discussion, we chose between things like that. I think at this juncture, most of them are already committed, contracts are signed. I think everything is going to get built, including the theater arts building. **John Cabral-** As you said yourself, the last bond failed and it take a staggering about of time to pass another one. As I understand, our football stadium fell under construction code so do you have to condemn our stadium? We did not put the money into funding for another stadium. Our athletics department actually had that. **Steve Fox-** I am not against any of the projects. That is not the issue. I think all the projects are fine. **John Cabral-** but that directly relates to the fact that you want us to put more money in Palmdale. **Steve Fox-** what I want to do is bring it to public debate and make us realize that if we do not come through the city council will not support us in the next bond measure if needed. There is no question that the mayor and the four city council members will come out against a bond measure for us if we do not do something to keep up what we allegedly promised. If we do not have their support in some form, we are not going to have their support the next time and we will not get our bond. **John Cabral-** The point I was trying to make is that you see the urgency behind some of these issues. I don't understand why they were putting money in either we use some of that money now, or we just don't have- **Steve Fox-** There is a degree of use it or lose it. **John Cabral-** There is an urgency in a lot of things. Have you seen the theater arts program? Its really under code. **Steve Fox-** There are a lot of needs that are urgent. **John Cabral-** That is why I fully back what board is explaining to me. You have the health science building, which is one of the fastest growing departments here on campus. **Steve Fox-** And I pushed through doubling the nursing program. **John Cabral-** Can I finish? You also have maintenance and facilities. I know you understand a maintenance facility that supplies the campus should not be on the center of the campus. That is not only bad in the sense that they cannot distribute evenly to campus, but there is a safety issue. How can these trucks come in? **Steve Fox-** Let me reverse the question. The scenario is the following: Do we need more access to classes in Palmdale, do we have a ethical and responsibility to the constituents in Palmdale and if don't step up to the plate in some degree will we lose their support and never get another bond? You tell me what you think we should do in that scenario. Look at the history, every bond has been failing. We were luck this one passed. **John Cabral-** I

believe they have been failing only because everything is going up so fast. Why would I want to pay more for schools if I do not have a kid in college? The second I hit the polls I am going to shoot that down. I think the reason it has been failing is because the economy is failing, which in turn shows why they have to drive the prices up for concrete and steel, because those businesses are not making any money, causing the building costs to go up. **Steve Fox-** I feel like competing interests is what we have a problem with and we should not have to be in this position where we have to vote for competing interests.

Jonathan Olguin- Is there anything keeping us from acquiring money? Yes, previous measures have failed, but who is to say that the next one is going to fail? We do not have the power to say that it will fail. You talked earlier that if the people do not see anything happening, they will not support us. But we have been doing something. We bought the land, that is doing something to some degree. That should show Palmdale that we have an invested interest. **Steve Fox-** I understand your argument and there would be some people who would agree with you. I do not think that dirt is enough of an invested interest. Show me classrooms. **Bernadine Sewell-** On that site? **Steve Fox-** It does not have to be on the site, but we can rent other classrooms. We have temporary. I asked at the last board meeting, 'is there money for more instructors as the temporary site?' I was told no. there is no plan for enlargement.

Senator Chad Wood Point of Personal Privilege 6:54

Jonathan Olguin- Has there been a poll asking whether or not they are happy, or is this your assumption based on the people that you know who have power? **Steve Fox-** first of all its from listening to the general constituents at the city council. Obviously it is a small group, just as this is a small group, but every person's opinion is important.

Senator Mihaela Blidarescu- You made a point that you were misinformed by the board? **Steve Fox-** Not by the board. I look at the list of priorities that the administration gave me. They kept changing the priority of the Palmdale center. It went from 5 in 2002 and in 2006 it was 13. I do not think the board misinformed me, but I get the impression that the other board members are just as informed as me. I talked to Earl, who has been on the board for 30 years, and I get the impression that he was no more informed that I was. **Bernadine Sewell-** you have to come to the meeting prepared and read the paperwork. **Steve Fox-** And I do

Timne Randolph- Have you ever received training from the CCLC? **Steve Fox-** No, I have not received training from them. I have gone to conferences of the government on the Brown Act. Every time I went to the conference, it kept coming up in newspapers that I was spending money on conference I have gone to a lot of conferences in 23 years. I did go to conferences when I was student trustee. The answer is yes, as a student trustee, but I spend more time trying to speak to my constituents. **Timne Randolph-** but not as an AVC representative? **Steve Fox-** Correct.

Bernadine Sewell - maybe you should try it some time. **Steve Fox-**At this point, what I need to do is rather than spending public funds on that, I would rather push the issues that my constituents want. **Bernadine Sewell -** I do not know what promises were made between the public and you and other people but it seems like now you are in the hot seat so you have to fix this so it comes out that you did this right, but why are you putting the board at risk? **Steve Fox-** Lets look at the things I've done in the 3 years. I complained that the nursing program was not big enough because we had a statewide shortage of nurses. I raised a large commotion on that, the administration hear me, and enlarged the nursing program. **Dr Zimmerman-** Wait a minute. The state gave hundreds of thousands of dollars. You did not do anything. The state gave millions of dollars in grant and Karen Cowell spend weekends on her own writing grants. The board did not do anything. **Steve Fox-** I stand corrected. The college president informed us that there was no police department. I pushed the board to reestablish the police department. I pick and chose one

issue which I think is very important. It was voted to reestablish the police department; the problem is I did not get everything that I wanted. We had two police officers on campus who were forced to step down until post training. But yes, but pushing everything under the bus, as you say, I convinced the board to reestablish the police department once they got post training. So sometimes my push results in a police department. I was unhappy with the administration's choice on who they wanted on the oversight committee. And I lobbied for Paul Scott from the California Interest Association – a union leader. He got that appointment. So I think that the board has to pick and choose. We have a responsibility not to be sheep, but just as you are doing now, to let your opinion be known. That is what I do. My responsibility is to help. Bringing an issue to the public, asking for support, trying to get a I'm a lobbyist, and I don't think that is bad.

Curtis Smith- Earlier, you said all the projects under Measure R will be completed somehow. **Steve Fox-** the ones that are already in process. There are a couple that were cut out. They cut out some that were also good projects. It was not just Palmdale that was hit. The problem is: should we hit Palmdale? That is the issue. **Curtis Smith-** It seems that there was a division between the Palmdale Campus and the Lancaster Campus. That is not the case. The Palmdale Campus is supposed to be an expansion of the Lancaster Campus. My question is, did you recommend or advise to the city of Palmdale to take 50% of AVC's cash reserves? **Steve Fox-** I recommended, not to Palmdale, but to the college that we try to use 50% of our reserves to try to build a campus in Palmdale. That was money that was not already committed and would not take away from anything else. I brought it up. I was trying to find a solution. We are going to lobby for Palmdale in the next bond resolution and they are going to say not because its reality. We are not going to get their support. **Bernadine Sewell-** You don't know that. **Shunnon Thomas-** Is it true that Palmdale could get their own bond? **Steve Fox-** No, they would have form a different district. I do not advise a different district. There is nothing wrong with more than one campus. That is what many districts have. **Shunnon Thomas-** How large of a college are you talking about? How many students? **Steve Fox-** there was not an exact amount of students that the city wanted; it would depend on the infrastructure. If you build a campus in Palmdale- 36% of the students that go to this campus are from Palmdale- many of the students here would chose to go there, creating more room here for future students. I am not saying everyone would go over there. **Shunnon Thomas-** maybe we should get started online. We do not have permission from the state to build yet. **Steve Fox-** we need to build wherever we can. We need to operate wherever we can. Not everyone can drive to campus. We need to give us as much accessibility as possible. **Shunnon Thomas-** We could do the online thing now. **Steve Fox-** Tell me what you would do under that scenario, you need to offer as much accessibility as possible.

Dr Zimmerman- I am curios, you mentioned that maybe you need to find another site. I have been to the Palmdale campus. There are 650 fulltime, but 2,000 students attend the Palmdale campus. Those students have a lot of services. **Steve Fox-** Have you taken a look at the schedule? There are time issues in getting from here to there. **Dr Zimmerman-** I understand that, but you can get almost every class there that you take here. You can fulfill all the general education classes there, except for the Science Lab requirement. There are classes that you cannot take there; you cannot get a nursing degree at that campus. It is definitely difficult to take classes spaced 10 minutes apart in two different campuses, but you can definitely do a Thursday- Tuesday in Lancaster and a Monday- Wednesday in Palmdale. **Timne Randolph-** even on this campus you cannot do that because you cannot accommodate everyone's schedule. You have to do a general consensus. **Dr Zimmerman-** . It is incorrect to say that we do not service students in Palmdale. Can we do a better job? Sure. Can we do a better job serving the students at the Lancaster campus? Sure. I need to be cautious for the 2,000 students and not say 'we are not doing anything for you' because those students are feeling pretty bad. I have a concern that involves discourse. How do we have a difference of opinion? How do we have a good debate? How do we do this respectful? How do we have that without costing

the district hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees? How do we have a difference of opinion without being publicly humiliated because the news papers articles is making up look that way? And how do we bring people together for solutions without tearing apart? **Steve Fox-** The Talmud how do we do the opposite? How do we say anything- the greatest criminal is not the person who commits the crime, it is the person who knows about it and does nothing to prevent it. How do I become the person who knows better, that should have had a vote on the policy of which building? If I say nothing, am I not in a worse position? **Dr Zimmerman-** I agree with talking. And I think that there is a proper place to raise questions. I have been to almost every board meeting. Have you not sat through the Doug Jensen presentations. I do not know how you could have missed that. **Steve Fox-** the ones were there was not going to be a Palmdale campus? Until a few weeks ago, I really did not really realize this, and I'm not the only one.

Timne Randolph- My whole thing is that you have come and said this is Palmdale situation and you are a board member, your involvement is posing a conflict. Per standard 4, that is a direct accreditation standard. The college has already spent funds on attorneys that could have been used on student services and we will have to do it again if there is another situation. There was huge smear campaign in the AV Press and the Examiner about the campus loosing accreditation based on the incomplete parking lot. Most people do not read or investigate the truth of the allegation. How can you in a position to help facilitate these things that transpired as opposed to try to detour them and meet amicably and contour resolutions? Your position is that we have to do the exact opposite. And that does not make any sense to me diplomatic, or using a democratic society, it does not make any sense. **Steve Fox-** Don't you think that by taking the position we have that responsibility to use part of the 11.5% that Palmdale is holding off the lawsuit to see what we do. I have actually deterred litigation. No two, the board never voted to spend money on attorneys. So I don't know that I have caused that. As far as conflict, what if I took the side lets just keep the projects that the administration wants? Am I not then in conflict with the other part of my district? **Time Randolph-** I am not saying chose a side, I am saying be neutral. You are not playing a neutral position because I have something that you brought in on your letter head. Whether this is a mishap, you are no longer. I am a student at this school and you are on my board. That is a problem. **Steve Fox-** I have taken the position that as a board member, I have the right to set policy. As a board member, I have the right to support a particular bond. As a board member, if I feel that I have to do something, my inaction is worse than taking a position,

Jonathan Olguin- Back to some of the things that have been mentioned, Doug Jensen has made some presentations and taken some questions as to how do we get the list of what will take place in construction. That to my understanding, that is something that the state has control over. **John Cabral-** You are referring to the Educational Master Plan? **Jonathan Olguin-** Yes. When the state is telling us what we can built, don't you think that you are acting against the students when the state said go ahead and built the theater, go forward with this construction, the rest will be considered. What is the point of standing up against that and having the students penalized for that? I have a lot of friends who are in the theater arts programs. We need a theater. We don't have that program for people to get that degree. Don't you think that would further impact the situation with the community? **Steve Fox-** You brought up several points. The state determines their priority list. We need to first request a theater art program. We need to ask, what do we request? Nobody is saying the program is not needed. The problem is when we have a lot of needs. How do I answer you question, how do I answer the people in Palmdale who want a campus- who need a campus? The same thing I am telling you. We have a lot of projects, we need to make choices **Jonathan Olguin-** It is through the states approval that we have the green light. How does the idea come up that we take money from theater and apply it toward the Palmdale campus. How is that benefiting us? **Steve Fox-** That would benefit the students because students from Palmdale would go to the Palmdale

campus and there would be more room in the Lancaster campus. How hard is it to get the classes you need? The bottom line is, if there would be more general classrooms there, the students from Palmdale would go there and there would be more space here. How does it benefit you? You could get into more classes here. **Jonathan Olguin**- If its at the state level, how can you say 'pull the money from here and apply it here' and arise the automatic contention from the board? You are causing all this contention when there are already plans set by the state. **Steve Fox**- What do you do if the board who sets policy, did not have the choice to debate your input?

Shunnon Thomas- I recognize your passion. What if it is proven that your actions have caused more harm than good, what would you do? **Steve Fox**- If I believed that, I would not be doing that in the first place. 99% of what I do is finding a common thread. I can think of a few mistakes I did in the board of the hospital where it turned out I was wrong. I have lost offices because of my platforms.

Bernadine Sewell- I just want to drive the point home. That there is a way to do this. You agreed to come here and you are open game. I believe there is a time and place to say what I need to say. I came to the board meetings and I watch you in action. I feel you are very disrespectful to the board; you doze off and then wake up. That is very disrespectful. You wake up, and then you go back at it. As a board member, you are supposed to pay attention and know what is going on. There is a way to say things and there is a way not to. As ASO, we disagree all the time, but when we step out of this room, we stand together. **Steve Fox**- That is an interesting philosophy. I do not know that I was given the same opportunity. I appreciate your respect and you are the most important group to me. It is very important that the needs of the students are taken care of. The question is: how do I ensure that you get that access to have things done. When would the right time have been? It would have been two years. What do I do with two different constituencies, how do I build a bridge for access to all my students? You try to keep as much of your word as possible. Just plain dirt is not enough. We need classrooms, we need teachers.

John Cabral- We are going to wrap it up. As I am aware, in December, you will become president of the board? **Steve Fox**- that is not a guarantee. They do have a quasi rotating system and they could easily elect someone else. **John Cabral**- If elected as president of the board, would this issue with Palmdale directly skew your action? **Steve Fox**- As president, you are running the meeting instead of giving your opinion. Your job is to run the meeting. It could actually be more enjoyable being on the outside looking in. Maybe your solution would be to elect me president. **John Cabral**- I want to know what your position would be as president. I want to know your motive. **Steve Fox**- I do not have motive, other than I enjoy government. **John Cabral**- other than that, I am saying, all your allegations against the board, if you control it- **Steve Fox**- My position is that the board needs more access to information. I also find it interesting that there is not functioning committees on the board. The answer is to work with the other board members.

Time Randolph- Correct me if I am wrong, but all I seem to hear that you know about is boards that you previously were on, but you do not seem to know anything about our board. You have been on our board for 3 years. You vaguely maneuvered that that you did not know about many things. You have not taken any responsibility and you are an attorney? **Steve Fox**- by speaking up I am taking responsibility. **Time Randolph**- You are being highly vague and ambiguous. You are saying that if you were saying if you were chairman you would be more apt to be quiet? **Steve Fox**- I would have to be more neutral. **Timne Randolph**? Don't you have to be neutral anyways? **Steve Fox**- I don't think you loose your opinion. You still have a vote, you still have an opinion.

VPAA Shunnon Thomas Point of Personal Privilege 7:34

Curtis Smith- If I am not mistaken, you said there is not enough money to complete all the projects. Politics and voter lobbying aside, do you think it is more cost efficient to complete the small project of the theatre rather than the Palmdale campus? **Steve Fox-** You presuppose certain things that are not true. The Palmdale site only warranted 60 million, the theater 20 million. So we would get the beginning of our Palmdale campus and we would get matching funds. It actually requires less of our Measure R funds.

Curtis Smith- My question is simply, do you think that the funds should go toward Palmdale or the expansion on the Lancaster campus? **Steve Fox-** I like the theater. That is not the issue. I have to do what my constituency told me to do. I believe what they wanted when they voted for Measure R was a Palmdale campus. I have to do what they wanted or I get voted out of office.

Andrew Douglas- I want to thank you Mr. Fox for your time here and sharing your opinions. It has been very informative and I think we have had great discussions. **Steve Fox-** You are welcome. If any of you want to come to my office, you can come and bring your questions.

Bernadine Sewell- When you speak of the board, its a lot of 'I' but when you speak of Palmdale, it a 'we'. I want to know after sitting here and conversating with us, we are the voice, we are the students, what you are going to walk away with after this night? **Steve Fox-** I am realizing that it is not just the administration, it is also the student constituency that believes that the Lancaster Palmdale is enough. I want you to understand that I have a large constituency; one of them is on one side and the other is on the other side. I am walking away with your opinion, but I still have to find a way to bridge the gap. The situation is that neither side is really wrong. You are not wrong for wanting the theater arts program and they are not wrong wanting the Palmdale campus. How do you bridge the gap and do what the public has told me to do? How do I represent everyone's needs? I want to look for the future, and as this valley grows, there will be a need for a large campus. **Bernadine Sewell-** again, it is I, why isn't it 'we the board?' **Steve Fox-** It should be we the board, but it has to start someplace. You asked me what I was going to go away with and so I answered I in that manner.

John Cabral - I would like to thank you on behalf of ASO. I believe what was said will help us better understand your position. **Steve Fox-** I understand yours a lot more. It should be I that will be thanking you.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPCOMMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Dr Zimmerman- I would like to remind everyone that there will be a special meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 am. **John Cabral-** It will be a Special ASO meeting because I forgot to type up the agenda. It will be short, from 7- 8 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

VPSS Timne Randolph moved to adjourned the meeting, Senator Michaela Blidarescu seconded, motioned passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm