PCC Logo

**PASADENA AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**President’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Committee**

**Minutes – June 19, 2021**

Zoom Meeting

**Members Present**: Dr. Peter Wong, Carrie Afuso, Dr. Kari Bolen, Vivian Chan, Joseph Chang, Michelle Freridge, Roger Huang, Dr. Ketmani Kouanchou, Frank Kwan, Sandra Chen Lau, Cynthia Liu, Dona Mitoma, Shelley Ryan, Dr. Reiko Sakata, Jeanne Shamim, Susanna Shamim, Bryan Takeda, Dr. Tooktook Thongthiraj, Linda Wah, Dr. Cathy Wei.

1. **Welcome by Chair - Peter Wong**
   * Meeting opened at 9:33 AM
2. **Approval of the Minutes – March 13, 2021**

* Moved, Linda Wah; second, Carrie Afuso; carried as presented by Secretary Frank Kwan.

1. **President’s Report - Dr. Kari Bolen for Dr. Erika Endrijonas**
   * Pasadena City College (PCC) received a $30 million donation from the landmark investment author and philanthropist Mackenzie Scott. The funds are unrestricted and the gift comes as a vote of confidence in Dr. Endrijonas’ leadership and her team, PCC’s reputation for Pathways to economic mobility, and the strength of the PCC Foundation.
   * Dr. Bolen shared diversity, equity and inclusion efforts of CAPE, including building out the bystander/upstander program, in coordination with ongoing anti-Asian hate program.
   * PCC is exploring developing a President’s Leadership Council on Equity, Diversity and Justice, with representatives from various stakeholder groups. Dr. Bolen extended an opportunity to PAAPI to recommend a PCC employee committee member to serve as a representative.
2. **Updates / Staff**
3. **Special Guest Observer**

* Linda Wah introduced Nicole Williams from CalTech, who has collaborated with PCC in creating shared programming for students of both institutions.
* Linda Wah is recommending Nicole Williams for membership to PAAPI. Williams noted she wanted to find more ways to build bridges between CalTech and PCC by leveraging events together, with the goal of spreading them throughout the year.
* Nicole Williams was approved by acclamation to join PAAPI, and welcomed by all members.

1. **PCC/CalTech API Heritage Month Event Report**

* Prior to her report, it was shared that Dr. Cathy Wei was awarded the Community Involvement & Lancer Pride Above and Beyond Award for promoting and enhancing the image of PCC, going above and beyond in her efforts.
* Dr. Cathy Wei shared event highlights and although tea and food were part of the event, the true focus was on family. It was a positive effort by both PCC and CalTech.

1. **Nominating Committee**
   * Michelle Freridge reported that Linda Wah is on the committee, continuing to research adding high quality nominees.
2. **Fundraising**

* Roger Huang reported that $3500 was awarded with seven grants at $500 each. There is a balance of $6600, with another ten grants to be awarded in the fall semester.
* Consider inviting a grant recipient to our meeting to share how it helped or impacted them.
* There was a discussion on having a student representative on the group for input and as a leadership development opportunity. Carrie Afuso mentioned that there are students who can be considered, and looking at bylaws to note that it would be a one-year appointment.

1. **By-laws**
   * Dr. Peter Wong noted the comment period for the bylaws has been extended for 30 days; comments should be sent to Dr. Sally Chou and Dr. Peter Wong. The final version and acceptance via email voting would be by July 19. The last update to the by-laws was 2012.
2. **Newsletter**
   * Dr. Peter Wong recommended creation of a PAAPI newsletter to communicate activities and accomplishments of the group, to be shared within PCC and externally. It would be emailed, and PAAPI would work with PCC staff in the production and sharing. It would feature short articles, such as the PCC /Caltech event and grants provided to students. It might also feature a staff section and efforts by CAPE. Linda Wah and Frank Kwan volunteered to work with Peter.
3. **New Business** 
   * As noted above, the committee voted to accept Nicole Williams as a PAAPI member.
4. **Announcements**
   * **Michelle Freridge** shared that L.A. vs. Hate coalition has wall artwork available, and could be provided to PCC. Dr. Bolen would take recommendation to staff with oversight of facilities space.
   * **Linda Wah** announced there is a bystander training this coming Tuesday at 4:00PM. Michelle noted that there is training in Chinese and that Compassion SGV is looking for volunteers to help accompany seniors who may be fearful of outside activities, such as shopping.
   * **Frank Kwan** suggested that these trainings and opportunities be shared via the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association to be promoted to school board members in the 80 K-12 districts, as well as community college trustees.
   * **Sandra Chen Lau** invited all to join her for coffee and tea with trustee – an informal conversation with a PCC trustee. It is the last coffee and tea before fall, and is on June 28th, 7-8pm via Zoom (ID 823 4908 0397 / Passcode 615029).
   * **Joseph Chang** reminded everyone to check on their health, and noted the Chinatown Service Center has a health division. He also noted the Huntington Library is a great resource, and is undergoing expansion. The Japanese American National Museum will be co-hosting a screening with the Asian American Leadership Foundation on July 29 with API elected officials.
   * **Dr. Tooktook Thongthiraj** commented on wellness programs for API students, and submitting a grant application which would bring in $1.5 m over five years.
   * **Bryan Takeda** spoke about the project that is looking at the history of Japanese Americans in Pasadena, and students may reach out to PAAPI to do interviews; it is critical now, since as time passes, stories are being lost.
   * **Dr. Peter Wong** suggested that students could be used to research in this area, and consider that one of our grants be allocated for this.
   * **Dr. Ketmani Kouanchou** noted thatSpecial Services has three positions open: student health, psychologist, counselor.
   * **Vivian Chan** on the subject of use of the new $30 m gift that the administration is taking a holistic approach with a team of advisers to map out needs.
   * **Roger Huang** mentioned that East West Bank is networking with local police and fire agencies, and will be hiring two entry level employees, preferably bilingual. This can be shared with PCC students.
5. **Sandra Chen Lau** noted thatPCC adds $600 million to the local economy, and is reviewing this impact in terms of which companies receive contracts.
6. **Next meeting**

* The next round of meetings will be developed in coordination with Dr. Endrijonas’ schedule and will be distributed.

1. **Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM