Classified Staff Association
Meeting with the President
January 30, 2006
2:30 p.m.

Those present: President Lee Caldwell and Sheila Cannon.
Those excused: Darwin Gifford.

We discussed the following information.

Many staff members have been concerned about President Caldwell's proposal to hire additional full-time faculty and fewer staff members over the next few years. He addressed this concern for us. We currently have 101 full-time faculty and 181 full-time staff members. On record we have 21 part-time staff and there could be more. Therefore, because the ratio is uneven, it is his desire to make it more equal. He also mentioned that low-paying part-time staff positions are difficult to fill and the turnover is high. Therefore, as part-time staff positions become vacant and/or new positions are needed, those positions would be filled with students (probably upper division level) rather than hire new people. The students would be paid through institutional funds. It is his ultimate goal to increase compensation for our current staff. He believes that it is better to invest in a small group of well paid, accomplished people, rather than having too many people receiving minimal pay. His main point was that he is not overlooking the staff with the faculty. He stated that our faculty members are really out of line when it comes to compensation and we need academic quality as we bring so many new bachelor degree programs to this campus.

The President mentioned that the college is in good shape financially. He is very pleased with the amount of funding this institution will receive next year; therefore, the staff will receive a fair amount of compensation. He also mentioned that Representative David Clark is working on a bill to keep our current benefits within the state pool and he is very pleased because this will preserve our future raises.

We visited about the growth of this institution and he told me that we are facing a major transition over the next three to five years. He encourages the staff to continue their education and improve their skills, as many changes and growth will be coming our way. An education allows individuals to not only improve their economic status it also enables them to provide extraordinary service to this campus.

I personally want to thank President Caldwell for caring about the individuals on this campus. He truly has a vision for the future and it is exciting to be a part of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.