

Introduction

The re-conferencing structure proposed by the Northern and Southern Committees is not significant cost containment. In fact, the Northern Committee permitted conferences in the North to remain relatively the same, including the 17 team Coast Conference. The Southern Committee included numerous changes, including regional changes by three colleges. Mileage charts were presented which indicate overall increases and decreases in estimated travel miles but did not include post-season travel. The chart reflected that 32% of the Southern colleges would decrease mileage 16 miles or more, 8% would increase mileage 16 miles or more, and 60% of the colleges would remain the same.

The proposed re-conferencing changes were distributed for the first time at 6 p.m. on Thursday October 29, 2009 at the COA Burlingame Fall Conference. The proposal was not on the Conference agenda. Commissioner Logan McKechnie of the Central Valley Conference moved that the proposal be considered an emergency item that would go into effect next fall. After much discussion and objections from the field about the process, the Management Council voted 12-7-1 to move it to the COA Board at 8 a.m. on Friday for consideration. The COA Board decided not to vote on the proposal and gave the affected colleges 30 days to provide documentation regarding why the re-conferencing plan should not be implemented.

The Southern Committee was made up of three individuals from the Orange Empire Conference, two from the Foothill Conference, two from the Pacific Coast and one each from the Western State and South Coast. The Western State representative was hired as Commissioner in late September and not introduced to the Conference until the October 8, 2009 WSC meeting. Commissioner White's involvement was probably minimal.

Northern Presidents, of which 42 Colleges are 4-10 hours from Bakersfield, please read this report carefully. The Northern and Southern Re-conferencing Committees did not take into consideration the tremendous potential increases for non-conference and post-conference competition. Colleges who travel to Bakersfield, Cuesta, or Allan Hancock for competition would have staggering travel cost increases.

The re-conferencing proposal is premature and requires ample consideration to fully evaluate increased costs. The following are additional concerns and questions that must be answered prior to implementing a re-conferencing plan.

- What criterion was used in making the determinations for conferences, and was the same criteria used in both the North and the South? There is no apparent consistency in criteria between the regions. The North will keep the Coast conference intact with 17 Colleges while the South Committee contains conferences of no larger than 10 Colleges. There remain Colleges in the North that are driving by other colleges on their way to compete at other Colleges. For example, in the South Santa Monica will drive by West LA when they travel. Santa Monica will move to Conference 5 and West LA will stay in Conference 3.

However, West LA is six miles south of Santa Monica so the move does not follow the logic of a cost containment effort.

- There are many conferences in the south that may be required to host or be hosted due to the possibility of mid- year cuts and the projected budget scenarios for 2010-2011.

The athletic programs of Bakersfield and Allan Hancock have their athletic programs are placed in two different regions in this proposal. Bakersfield and Hancock football teams remain in the South but all other teams will move to the Central Valley Conference.

- By moving 17 out of 18 sports to the Northern Conference, the CCCAA will most likely create an inequity in many areas including quality of coaching, travel distances, academic success and scholarship opportunities. This re-conferencing appears to create a gender inequity as well. Approximately 50% of the male athletes will not being affected adversely by the change in regions, while 100% of the female athletes will be affected.
- In the proposed plan, geographical proximity is referenced. A common definition for “geographical” conferencing needs to be established prior to consideration of any re-conferencing. The current proposal increases costs at some colleges, including a tremendous and inequitable cost burden to Bakersfield College.
 - The center of the state is Clovis, so all Colleges south of Clovis would move south if geographical proximity is indeed the primary consideration for cost containment.
 - The population center of the state is in the San Fernando Valley. If the population center is used as a primary consideration for re-conferencing all colleges in the current Western State Conference, excluding the Los Angeles Colleges, would then move north. Antelope Valley College would also move to the North.

Hosting

The movement of Bakersfield, Hancock and Cuesta will present hosting problems for the Western State Conference. In the re-conferencing proposal Conference Number 3 will have six sports which will have to be hosted out. If the goal is to eliminate hosting, this has actually created more hosting as shown below.

Western State Conference-Men

	BB	BK	CC	FB	GF	SC	SW	TN	TF	VB	WR	WP
COLLEGE												
Allan Hancock	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Bakersfield	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Canyons	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Citrus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
Cuesta	X	X	X				X		X		X	X
Glendale	X	X		X		X		X	X			
LA Mission	X					X						
LA Pierce	X	X		X			X	X		X		
LA Valley	X	X	X	X			X		X			X
Moorpark	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	
Oxnard	X	X	X			X						
Santa Barbara	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Santa Monica		X	X	X			X		X	X		X
Ventura	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X
W. LA	X	X	X	X		X			X			
Total	14	14	12	12	6	9	8	6	12	5	3	5

Western State Conference- Women

	BD	BK	CC	GF	SB	SC	SW	TN	TF	VB	WP	
COLLEGE												
Allan Hancock		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Bakersfield		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Canyons		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Citrus		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Cuesta		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
Glendale		X	X		X	X		X	X	X		
LA Mission					X	X						
LA Pierce		X			X	X	X			X		
LA Valley		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
Moorpark		X	X		X	X			X	X		
Oxnard		X	X		X	X				X		
Santa Barbara		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Santa Monica		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
Ventura		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
W. LA		X	X						X	X		
Total	0	14	13	5	14	14	7	6	12	12	5	

**The following sport is hosted out:
Wrestling**

Proposed Conference No. 3- Men

	BB	BK	CC	FB	GF	SC	SW	TN	TF	VB	WR	WP
COLLEGE												
Antelope Valley	X	X	X	X	X				X			
Canyons	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
LA Mission	X					X						
LA Pierce	X	X		X			X	X		X		
LA Valley	X	X	X	X			X		X			X
Moorpark	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	
Oxnard	X	X	X			X						
Santa Barbara	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Ventura	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X
W. LA	X	X	X	X		X			X			
Total	10	9	8	8	4	6	4	3	7	4	1	2

Proposed Conference No. 3- Women

	BD	BK	CC	GF	SB	SC	SW	TN	TF	VB	WP
COLLEGE											
Antelope Valley		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
Canyons		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
LA Mission					X	X					
LA Pierce		X			X	X	X			X	
LA Valley		X	X		X	X	X		X		X
Moorpark		X	X		X	X			X	X	
Oxnard		X	X		X	X				X	
Santa Barbara		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Ventura		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. LA		X	X						X	X	
Total	0	9	8	2	9	9	4	3	7	8	2

The following sports will need to be hosted out:

Men's Waterpolo

Women's Waterpolo

Men's Tennis

Women's Tennis

Women's Golf

Wrestling

Cost Containment Legislation

The cost containment legislation contained 19 items that could reduce cost for member colleges. All of these items were discussed at the September emergency meeting in Ontario. Some additional items were discussed and added to the list. At that time re-conferencing had not been widely disclosed and impacted colleges were not involved in the discussion or the process. The enigmatic manner in which the re-conferencing proposal surfaced at the COA Burlingame Fall Conference gives the appearance that “cost containment” is not the sole propose of the re-conferencing proposal. The report was tabled due to a change in leadership for the Northern Committee to allow ample time for the appointed chair, Commissioner Dale Murray from the Coast Conference time to be brought up to speed. The Southern Committee chair Commissioner Dean Crowley from the Foothill Conference stated that the proposal for the Southern Region was ready but it would not be released until the Northern Proposal was completed.

The re-conferencing committee met for eighteen months, without input from Bakersfield College, whose costs for athletics will skyrocket under the proposal. In addition, due to the significant increase in travel, the academic standing of athletes will be severely and unfairly affected. The first time the re-conferencing issue was added to the cost containment list was at the Management Council meeting in Burlingame. Re-conferencing should follow the legislative process and the CCCAA Constitution. Re-conferencing should be addressed and follow the guidelines listed in the constitution and be a transparent process with member colleges involved.

Re-conferencing should be considered a separate issue and should not have been added to the cost containment items presented to the COA Board.

Revenue

Bakersfield College experienced a loss of revenue due to decreased fan support when we moved from the Metro Conference to Western State Conference in 1986. The last three years the fan support has increased in all sports due to rivalries that occur. To have all sports, except football, switch conferences will decrease fan support and thus revenue.

At Bakersfield College the gate revenue is deposited into the co-curricular account which helps to support all eighteen sports at the College. The decrease in revenue would have a detrimental affect on the funding of Bakersfield College’s athletic program which is only funded 40% by the College.

Constitutional Process

The CCCAA Constitution and Bylaws give specific guidelines and timelines for presenting legislation. These guidelines were not followed in development of the re-conferencing proposal. The subject of re-conferencing was not on any agenda that was listed on the COA website and calls to Management Council Representatives and the

CCCAA office did not respond to questions regarding when the re-conferencing proposal was going to be presented.

All legislation that is to be considered has to be in to the CCCAA office by October 1. It is then put in a form and is available for viewing on the CCCAA website. At the COA Board meeting in Burlingame, the body was told the re-conferencing information would be up on the website and would be sent to the college Presidents. Fourteen days later, the information had not been received by the college Presidents nor was it available on the CCCAA website.

The legislative flow chart in Appendix C of the CCCAA Constitution & Bylaws (page 232-233) was not followed for re-conferencing. It is unclear why this is not being considered as legislation and yet, it was voted on by the Management Council and sent to the board as an emergency policy item. It is also unclear why the proposal was labeled as “emergency”. The proposal was classified as a policy item which should have required 2/3 vote to pass (CCCAA Constitution & Bylaws Article 8, Item 8.2.1 page 41)

CCCAA Constitution & Bylaw Article 5.1 states “colleges will be provided the opportunity to decide their conference membership with the final authority for conference placement by the COA Board”. In the re-conferencing proposal, Bakersfield College was not afforded an opportunity to decide, or provide input on their conference membership. The re-conferencing proposal was submitted by the committee to the Management Council and then to the COA Board.

In addition, the conferences are not listed by numeric identification. Are these being considered as “new conferences?” If so, then all new conferences must follow the follow the “Conference Membership Flow Chart” found in Appendix C of the CCCAA Constitution & Bylaws. (Page 232-233)

Bakersfield College Concerns

History

Several years ago, Bakersfield College was asked to join the Central Valley Conference in all sports. President Bill Andrews, former COA board member met with the Coaches and discussed this possibility. Coaches were in agreement that this would not be the best move for Bakersfield College students, athletes and coaches and would have a direct impact financially on Bakersfield College athletics.

Safety and Liability

There is a tremendous safety issue with the potential increased travel by any school in Northern California by adding Bakersfield College. Forty two colleges are 4-10 hours away from Bakersfield College. To expect coaches to drive 2-3 vans five hours or more

one way, compete, and then drive back is an increase in institutional liability. This travel not only pertains to coaches and players, but also cheers teams, staff, and fans.

Cost Containment

The attached expense chart for each sport indicates costs for two and three day trips if Bakersfield College is included in the Northern Conference. It also indicates the current expenses for a 2-3 hour trip. The expanded costs will surpass current costs for Bakersfield College athletic teams.

The following relevant factors are included in the expense chart analysis:

1. Changes in the seeding criteria that include head-to-head competition for many of the sports may limit Bakersfield College going to the South for contests and force Northern play. For safety reasons this would include one or two nights of hotel expenses, additional extra meal money and transportation costs. Example: if any baseball team in the North takes the five hour trip and stays one night the cost would be approximately \$5,690 and a two night stay would be \$8,450. There could be as many as 6-8 non-conference trips for baseball alone.
2. Projected post-season competition costs could affect all of the Northern colleges. Example: if Bakersfield travels eight hours to Shasta (or vica versa) it would require a two night's stay. The re-conferencing committee has no way of predicting which teams will play or where they play. The unknown expenses could easily be in the tens of thousands more dollars for any college for post-season competition.

The potential costs for re-conferencing could easily increase cost for Northern colleges \$50,000-\$100,000.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Transportation</u> <u>2 days</u>	<u>Meals</u> <u>2 days</u>	<u>Lodging</u> <u>1 night</u>	<u>Gas</u>	<u>2 day</u> <u>totals</u>	<u>3 days</u>	<u>2-3 hour</u> <u>trip</u>	
Soccer	\$660	\$1,200	\$840	\$220	\$2,920	\$4,470	\$1,150	
Volleyball	\$440	\$960	\$560	\$150	\$2,110	\$3,180	\$850	
Women's Golf	\$220	\$380	\$490	\$75	\$1,165	\$2,200	\$375	
Men's Golf	\$220	\$380	\$490	\$75	\$1,165	\$2,200	\$375	
M/W Cross Country	\$440	\$1,000	\$700	\$150	\$2,290	\$3,560	\$870	
Wrestling	\$440	\$1,000	\$700	\$150	\$2,290	\$3,560	\$870	
Men's Basketball	\$660	\$1,200	\$770	\$220	\$2,850	\$4,330	\$1,150	
Women's Basketball	\$440	\$1,000	\$770	\$150	\$2,360	\$3,600	\$870	
Baseball	\$2,400	\$1,890	\$1,400		\$5,690	\$8,450	\$2,245	
Softball	\$660	\$1,400	\$900	\$220	\$3,180	\$4,890	\$1,250	
M/W Swimming	\$660	\$1,400	\$900	\$220	\$3,180	\$4,890	\$2,280	
Women's Tennis	\$220	\$380	\$490	\$75	\$1,165	\$2,200	\$375	
Men's Tennis	\$220	\$380	\$490	\$75	\$1,165	\$2,200	\$375	
M/W Track	\$2,400	\$2,380	\$1,800		\$8,980	\$9,900	\$2,490	
					Possible expenses	\$40,510	\$59,630	\$15,525

Implications for Bakersfield College

The proposed re-conferencing plan would have a devastating effect on Bakersfield College Athletics. The increased costs that would be incurred by moving to the North would cripple our budget in this time of a financial crisis.

We could conceivably be forced to eliminate several sports teams. This would greatly affect our student-athletes and our community. If teams are eliminated from the Bakersfield College Athletic Program, the Central Valley Conference may not get a college with 18 programs, but one with far fewer.

In addition, the proposed re-conferencing would have a detrimental affect on our student athletes as well as educator-coaches. Students-athletes would miss significantly more classes at critical points of the semester due to increased in post-conference travel both in time and distance. Educator-coaches would also be absent from teaching their assigned courses due to travel; therefore, substitute faculty will need to be hired to fill in the teaching assignments. This will be an additional cost to the College as well as a tremendous impact to the quality of the learning environment for students.

Academic Senate

November 24, 2009



Mr. Carlyle Carter
Executive Director
California Community College Athletic Association
2017 O Street
Sacramento CA 95811-5211

Dear Mr. Carter,

Following its meeting of November 18, 2009, the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College unanimously voted in favor of the following resolution.

Resolution Pertaining to Equity in Athletic Conference Affiliation

Whereas, this proposed transfer will result in increased travel times and overnight stays necessitated by the increased distances, resulting in an unfair burden placed on our student-athletes to maintain their grades while traveling for conference championships during final exam times; and

Whereas, Bakersfield College is dedicated to providing an exceptional education in academics and athletics to our students, the proposed transfer of BC to the northern region of competition will diminish our ability to equitably meet the needs of all of our students due to increased financial costs for student athletics; and

Whereas, said transfer, as it currently applies to each female sport but not each male sport, creates an inequity of treatment of genders that may be in violation of Title IX; and

Whereas, this transfer results in an economic penalty upon our college and students by necessitating increased travel distances of up to 400 miles (College of the Redwoods = 630 miles) farther than the current system during a period of intense cuts to Community College funding in the State of California; and

Whereas, this transfer will also result in the northern-most conference members experiencing both the same financial penalty as well as the same academic hardship upon their student-athletes;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College strongly recommends to the California Community College Athletic Associations' Commission on Athletics that Bakersfield College's athletic conference affiliation remain in the southern region of competition rather than the proposed transfer to the northern region.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Gerhold'.

John Gerhold
Academic Senate President

JG:jm

Kern Community College District

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