

Citrus College

MEMO

CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Superintendent/President
1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741-1899

Date: Friday, November 20, 2009
To: Carlyle Carter, CEO/President, California C.C. Athletic Association
From: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., Superintendent/President
Subject: Re-Conferencing

In response to your email dated November 11, 2009, regarding the Cost Containment Proposal, please note the following areas of concern which Citrus College does not support:

1) RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PROPOSAL

Review of the proposal was very limited. It seems that no one but the Conferencing Committee and the Management Council had access to this information until the fall convention – the proposal was handed out to those in attendance right before the vote was taken. Given that realignment of most of the Southern California Conferences is a very large undertaking, it is recommended that the matter have a longer review process with more input from the field.

2) TRAVEL INCREASE

A review of the information which seems to indicate less travel for colleges is not completely accurate given that consideration was not made for divisional play which occurs in many conferences including our current conference - the Western State.

In Citrus' case, Divisions were in place for M & W Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, Softball and W Soccer – the only sport for Citrus that would be traveling less miles in the new conference would be men's soccer.

- Travel for Men's and Women's Basketball was 644 miles (total) round trip - New conference 902 miles (total) round trip (If women add Cerro Coso, independent, their new conference would be 1170 miles)
- Volleyball 656 miles current conference to 722 miles new conference
- Baseball 1388 miles current conference to 1564 miles new conference (if baseball adds Cerro Coso, independent, their new conference would be 1832 miles)
- Softball 618 miles current conference to 902 miles

(These five sports for Citrus have the largest mileage increases. If a change is implemented, we would recommend a competition format that would not require playing all colleges in conference – similar to division play that we now have. This division format may not be possible for all sports due to the decrease in the number of teams.)

3) STRENGTH OF CONFERENCE

There is a concern with most of Citrus College sports (except basketball) regarding parity within our new conference. Enrollment numbers of credit students within our new conference would range from approximately 40,000 to 10,000 making it difficult to establish equity for the smaller districts.

4) HOSTING

With budget declines anticipated for the next couple years, it is highly probable that more colleges may drop sports. The dropping of sports may result in increased hosting of sports within the new conferences. As such, it is recommended that this decision be deferred until we have a better indication of the fiscal condition of colleges and the state.

(Given that the new conference for Citrus College has only four teams in women's golf and men's water polo, if any district drops one of these teams, we would be hosted out and mileage would increase dramatically.)

5) SUPPORT FOR CURRENT CONFERENCE COLLEGES

Three of Citrus' current conference colleges are being moved to the North necessitating a large increase in travel with this proposed realignment. This may cause them to lose adjunct coaches and drop sports. As such, it appears that an unintended consequence of this proposal is the potential loss of athletic programs. Therefore, it is recommended that the matter be studied further and alternative proposals be given due consideration.

6) SCHEDULING AND MEETINGS WITH NEW CONFERENCES:

Given the short timeline for implementation, it will be a rather daunting task to prepare for new conference meetings in January and get schedules in place for next season – especially for fall sports which are scheduling now.

Citrus College is supportive of the remainder of the cost containment recommendations.

c: Ms. Jody Wise, Dean of Physical Education and Athletics