

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES  
December 15, 2010

**APPENDIX A**

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President, requested Dean Bob Myers to report on the status of the Badminton course at Solano Community College. Following are the comments made by Dean Bob Myers relative to the Badminton course in the Physical Education, Athletics, and Wellness Division.

Dean Myers began by reporting as follows:

1. **Priority for scheduling-CTE, transfer, basic skills** - Over the past two years the Chancellors Office has recommended Districts cut Physical Education activity courses and to primarily fund, CTE, transfer courses and basic skills courses. Cuts are always hard, since we have many students who depend on our courses for many reasons. In fact I have had student come up and say their fitness class has saved their life and yet we have had to cut courses. We have cut 40 (since spring 2006) sections but have offered the faculty the ability to teach Community Education courses in that discipline so community members can still enroll in the class for recreation or personal enrichment.
2. **Number of Physical Education activity courses cut (does not include PE lecture courses, etc.)**, 30% cut in Physical Education Activity Courses alone from spring 2006 until spring 2011
  - a. Sp 2006 PE activity courses scheduled - 135
  - b. Sp 2011 PE activity courses scheduled - 95
3. **Number of local, similar-sized colleges that offer Badminton** - number of sections offered (spring 2011) - 4 colleges 0 sections, 3 colleges 1 section, 1 college 2 sections:
  - a. CRC-1 section
  - b. Ohlone-0 sections
  - c. CSM-1 section
  - d. LMC-0 sections
  - e. CCC-1 section
  - f. Yuba-2 sections
  - g. Marin-0 sections
  - h. Canada-0 sections

4. **Badminton class enrollments** (from Banner enrollment reports and Legacy 10 reports): a change from 96% fill rate to 60% fill rate from fall 2005 until fall 2010.
  - a. Fall 2010- 10/1-21 12/1-18
  - b. Spring 2010-3/1-18 5/10-18
  - c. Fall 2009- 9/13-20
  - d. Spring 2009-2/9-21
  - e. Fall 2008-10/1-26 12/20-20
  - f. Spring 2008- 5/20-26
  - g. Fall 2007-12/15-23
  - h. Spring 2007-5/20-27
  - i. Fall 2006- 12/20-25
  - j. Spring 2006- 5/20-13
  - k. Fall 2005-12/20-29
  
5. Recent cuts mandated a look at whether students were taking classes for personal enrichment or for their major, graduation requirement or transfer. Many students who take courses for recreation or personal enrichment are our night and weekend courses.
  
6. The Badminton line color is consistent with many new or remodeled gyms, such as ours, that offer a multitude of activities with Physical Education classes and Intercollegiate Athletics. Some examples are Dixon HS, College of Alameda and Santa Ana CC. Also, our Risk Management Consultants have been involved and have had experts inspect the lines and they indicate they do not present any danger to students and that the line color is consistent with many other facilities. To change the line color would cost \$2,000 (a quick job) and would mandate gym closure for 8-10 days. Might be best to do the lines when the whole gym is being done to make it look consistent.

All this being said, the District is looking at changing line color, and the Dean and District will look at possibly adding a section back into the *Schedule of Classes* for fall 2011.

#### **7. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Board President Honeychurch recognized Ms. Becky Lum, Instructor in the Physical Education, Athletics, and Wellness Division, who requested to comment on the Badminton course.

Ms. Lum thanked President Honeychurch for the opportunity to appear before the Board, and began by stating, “Before I begin, I would like to ask for your indulgence in allowing me to finish my entire presentation as I may not finish in three minutes.

This issue is not about Bob Myers or Becky Lum. It is not even about the basketball teams. Rather, this is about the entire student body of Solano College.

Before the renovation, the Badminton courts were squeezed together close to the bleachers far away from the basketball game court. When the Bond passed, the gym was to be renovated. I am the only Badminton instructor here at Solano Community College, but I was not consulted for my input regarding the color of the Badminton courts.

Intuitively, I measured the gymnasium and drew the blueprint for the new location of the Badminton courts. According to the International Badminton Federation (IBF), the courts were to be spaced four feet apart end-to-end, side-to-side, and with respect to the wall for safety sake.

Together, with the blueprint, I wrote a letter stating the new locations, because we did not want Solano College to be liable for any lawsuits in case a student injured him or herself. I also wrote in the memo that according to the IBF rules, the lines were to be yellow or white—distinguishable. In a conciliatory mode, I stated that brown, the former color on the gym floor would be acceptable and less obtrusive than yellow. This memo was delivered after my last class meeting in March 2008.

When I first inspected the gym in August, I could not see the courts. I honestly thought they forgot to paint the Badminton court lines. Upon taking a second look, I found the courts were painted a vanilla ice cream color. Immediately, I went to see Dean Myers about this. I told him that with the color of the painted lines was unacceptable because we cannot see the lines. We would never be able to host a major Badminton tournament or even compete in a Badminton league.

I said that as a person wearing two hats, one as Division Dean and the other as the Athletic Director, this person cannot make major decisions favoring one sport that is detrimental to others. The courts are unplayable because the lines are barely visible. The integrity of the game of Badminton is compromised. I know the thinking and strategy is to have a basketball game court with the least number of distracting lines possible. I said that this is not the Boston Gardens where the Celtics play, nor is it the Staples Pavilion where the Lakers play. This is not the Summit Basketball Pavilion built by the University of Tennessee and named in honor of the legendary Women's Basketball coach, Patricia Summit. Solano College is an educational institution and the gymnasium is an integral part of this educational institution.

Now, the only section of Badminton is cancelled for spring of 2011. Historically, since 1986, the Badminton class has always filled. There is usually a waiting list generated with people waiting to add this class.

Now, you are probably wondering about this old gray-haired Asian lady and her animated and articulate statements regarding Badminton, basketball, and the basketball game court. What does she know? Her attitude may be seemingly anti-basketball. Well, nothing could be further from the truth.

When I came to Armijo High School in 1958, I taught Math and Physical Education and coached Basketball and Badminton. As the years passed, I was assigned a higher level of Math each year. In the 60's, I was assigned Pre-Calculus. Each year more sections of Pre-Calculus were added. Finally, in the 70's, my assignment was two Calculus sections and three Pre-Calculus sections. Finally, at 17 years, reluctantly I had to give up coaching Basketball, Tennis, and Badminton, and teach the heavy load of the high powered Math classes. I felt it was more important to reach more students, especially girls in Math and Science. I just could not do both.

Now, Solano College is not the only school who designed their gymnasium in this manner. Most of the high schools and universities do paint the lines for Badminton under the Basketball game court relegating them to second status. Painting incomplete, truncated, fractured Badminton court lines under the Basketball game court destroys the integrity of the game.

Painting the class Basketball courts, class Volleyball courts, and Badminton court lines over the Basketball game court does not diminish the quality or function of the game Basketball. Metaphorically, they deserve 'equal protection under the law.'

It is time for Solano College to step up to the plate to do the right thing.”

Board President Honeychurch recognized Mr. Joseph Johnson, a Fairfield resident, who requested to comment on the Badminton course. Mr. Johnson stated he is a resident of Fairfield and long-time volunteer at Solano Community College. After hearing that consideration will be given to adding a Badminton class in fall 2011, Mr. Johnson thanked the College for this consideration and for allowing Ms. Lum to speak for an extended period of time. He concluded that Badminton classes offer students opportunity to have integrity and mutual respect.

Board President Honeychurch recognized Ms. Laurie Savage, a member of the Solano Badminton Club and Badminton student, who requested to comment on the Badminton course.

Ms. Savage asked that the Board reconsider painting the colors of the court with the recommendations of the IBF. She stated that normally what you expect to see is a color that you can compete with, commenting further that she is appalled with the current colors, and is hopeful the College will paint them in such a way that will help students to be successful on the court.

Board President Honeychurch thanked the members of the public for their comments.