

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES
December 1, 2010

APPENDIX A

5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Adrienne Conde, student at SCC, commented as follows by stating, “Over the years I have taken the badminton class. Ms. Lum is encouraging and patient and kind to all her students. I have come back to help instruct in the classroom. Over the years I have noticed that the class has been expanding relative to attendance. When the gym was being redone, I noticed many students complained about the color of the lines. It made it difficult for students to play. Students have a strong appreciation for the sport. I would hate to see this class be eliminated, especially since it is a cost-efficient class that is supported and enjoyed by many students. I really hope you will reverse your decision.”

Ms. Julie Gonzalez, student at SCC, commented as follows by stating, “I am here to also request that you maintain the Badminton class. I came back to SCC in 2005 to get my degree. As a District requirement, we are required to take two units. I work full time and am a full-time mother. The only other option I have is ballroom dancing or Saturday morning aerobics. This is not something I want to do. I took the class last spring. I can tell you to take this class and satisfy my PE requirement is important to me. I am in a dilemma. I need one more unit, and there is no Badminton class. I would ask that you not only consider us here, but other working people like myself that need to get our two units of PE to get our degrees.”

Ms. Gail McNally commented as follows by stating, “I was the Vacaville High School Badminton coach for 30 years and I was the Girls’ Athletic Director for the last five years of my 37 years of teaching for the Vacaville Unified School District.

I understand that Solano College wants to offer a quality education at its facilities and to do that they need to have quality staff members. I am here tonight to ask you not to cut your Tuesday night Badminton class. The instructor, Ms. Becky Lum, is highly qualified and is an asset to the community. She has a vast knowledge of skill execution and game strategy. She is invaluable to coaches, high school team members, and the general college student body.

I also understand that the College is thinking of adding a varsity sport. I would strongly recommend Badminton as that sport. Badminton is a lifelong sport. The startup expense and maintenance of the sport would be less than Waterpolo, which I understand is under consideration as a sport to be added. Twelve high schools in the area have varsity Badminton teams and only nine high schools have Waterpolo as a varsity sport.

The last issue I would like to address is the need to change the color of the court lines. The current color is difficult to see from the other side of the net. It is crucial to know if a shot is in or out to determine the outcome of the point scored.

Thank you for your consideration and please keep Badminton as a sport offered at SCC.”

Ms. Lynn Gregerson, Physical Education educator at Rodriguez High School, commented as follows by stating, “I have a concern about the dropping of Badminton from course offerings at Solano College. Rather than state why I am concerned that it is not offered, I would like to share the benefits of the quality instruction.

Ms. Becky Lum is a lifelong, devoted educator and her instruction is always based on sound educational principles that go beyond the scope of the particular subject. During such trying times for Solano College, the loss of a great instructor is not beneficial to the school.

Her current Badminton class is a continuum of years of community involvement, social blending, and world-class content instruction. Thousands of citizens have benefited from their learning in the Badminton classes offered by Becky Lum.

Becky Lum and her students have offered clinics and workshops to players at local high schools. They also offer instruction as well as support in learning and playing outside of the school setting at the Georgie Duke Sports Center in Vacaville.

There is a diversified population that is served with Badminton in the community and as a class extends across age and gender boundaries, a variety of skill levels, learning modes, and cultural and ethnic differences to develop communities of people that have a common interest—to play Badminton. Badminton is a life-time sport that can be played recreationally in your backyard with your family or friends or competitively in schools, cities, and Olympic venues. Badminton is a non-major sport that serves a population of people that don’t necessarily play the typical team sports like Basketball or Volleyball. Not offering a class of Badminton is not just depriving another physical education class, but denying students of a life-enrichment class. As a career Physical Education educator, I know that students in Becky’s class learn not just about Badminton, but life—the approaches and hard work to making good decisions and learning from bad ones.

The potential benefits of continuing the class and perhaps increasing class offerings should be considered instead of cutting one section classes. Becky used to teach a daytime class, also which was given to another instructor who did not have the expertise in the sport.

There is high interest in our county and neighboring counties for the sport and offering it may draw students from many cities to attend Solano College. As a Title 9 issue and equal opportunity, there is potential for a future College club or school sport for competition in the Northern California Community College League. Rodriguez High School has won the Solano County Athletic Conference title for four years in a row, and Vallejo, Bethel, and Armijo High Schools have all had players compete and bring home some titles in the Sacramento-Joaquin Section. The current two-year singles winner attends Solano Community College. The sport is inexpensive to operate as it requires no officials and little added cost for facility usage. It could serve Solano College well in its need for a Title 9 sport.

Money can be brought into the school with tournament series and clinics offered by a team or club.”

Mr. Kevin Brimmerman, student at SCC, commented as follows by stating, “Have you ever asked yourselves in an hour of meditation, which everyone finds during the day, how long we have been striving for greatness? Not only the years we’ve been at war, the war with Bob Myers, but from the moment as a child when we realized the gym could be conquered. It has been a lifetime struggle, a never-ending fight. I say to you, and we understand, that it is a privilege to play. Badminton players of Northern California, I ask you once more to rise and be worthy of this historical hour. Some people will tell you Badminton is not a sport. They will conjure up images of backyard BBQs and fly swatter grips. This is our duty to change their perceptions. I say Badminton, men and women! It is together...together that we will prevail. And we must never concede control of the gym, for it is together that we prevail!”

Ms. Melisa Byrd, student at SCC, commented as follows by stating, “I am a Napa Valley College student. I am speaking here today in regard to the avoidance of the Badminton class from the Solano Community College *Schedule of Classes*.

I would like to start with a small fact that not very many people know world wide, and that is that Badminton is the second most participatory sport played behind Soccer. In Northern California, over ten colleges participate in the Northern California Intercollegiate Badminton League, including U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, and Stanford University, just to name a few. These ten schools do not include the other community colleges that also participate in intercollegiate play. It is a pity that north of Vallejo our colleges do not reflect the same trend.

One person who has worked tirelessly to spread the sport in the Northbay is Coach Becky Lum. Coach Lum is the ultimate and final name spoken when it comes to Badminton in the Northbay. In my experience, no one north of the Carquinez Bridge offers this service to the community like she does. Not only would it be a tragedy to cut the Badminton course out of Solano’s curriculum, it would be an injustice to the student body.

I would like to close with a quote from Juan Sa Maranoh, former President of the International Olympic Committee, who said, ‘Our philosophy precedes from the belief that sport is an inalienable part of the educational process, and a factor in promoting peace, friendship, cooperation, and understanding among peoples.’ With this quote I plead that the Badminton course not be cut from Solano College’s curriculum.”

Mr. Ashton Cusick commented as follows by stating, “I am a transfer student from Solano College to U.C. Berkeley. I requested to be heard when I learned the class was being cancelled. I believe the reason for lack of participation is due to the change of line color, which is almost identical to the gym floor. This is the reason why we have had dwindling participation in the Badminton class.

If you played Basketball or Volleyball without lines, you wouldn’t know where you are on the court. Having played Badminton for six years and been a student of Ms. Lum on Tuesday nights, I now commute from Berkeley to help out in her class. It is a

shame to take away a class that has existed for years simply because of low participation when it comes from line challenges.”

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