



Week of April 18 , 2005

Volume 13, Number 4

NEWS FROM THE APRIL 19 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Sabbatical projects showcased

Four Grossmont College faculty members presented reports on their recent sabbatical leave projects. Board members received them with questions, comments, and compliments.

History Instructor **Carlos Contreras** researched the relationship between Mexico, the United States and other nations for a book. **Contreras** now uses draft chapters of the book in his classes.

Nory Behana, Co-Program Director of the Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Care Education Program, created a new manual on foster care. San Diego County now recommends the Grossmont course for all parents adopting older children.

ESL Instructor **Chuck Passentino** developed new course materials based on biographies of famous writers and artists to better integrate teaching of grammar with reading and writing skills.

Counselor **Mary Rider** developed a Web site called "Your College Success Profile," a tool to help students plan their education. It is available at www.grossmont.edu/counseling/college_success.

Governing Board President **Wendell Cutting** and other Board members thanked the presenters. Said **Cutting**, "One thing that really came through is your passion."

Equalization support emphasized

Trustees cast ballots for candidates for the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) 2005 Board of Directors election, focusing their votes on seven candidates who support equalization as a primary objective.

Jennings receives Chancellor/ Classified Senate award



Hsiu Chih Jennings
Photo by John Dixon

Hsiu-Chih Jennings, Instructional Computer Facilities Supervisor at Grossmont College, received the April Chancellor/ Classified Senate Award from

Chancellor **Omero Suarez**. **Jennings** "has been a great team player in promoting the department's goals and the overall college technology goals," said Chancellor **Suarez**. **Jennings** was commended for building a reputation for her department that "enhances our services, motivates staff and is reliable for any faculty, staff or administrator that she assists," noted Chancellor **Suarez**.

Classified Senate representative **Pat Murray** presented **Jennings** with several gifts to mark her accomplishment.

Rising costs create Prop. R challenge

Gafcon program manager **Joe Minner** updated Governing Board members on the progress of Prop. R funded projects. While most projects are proceeding on schedule, the District faces challenges with rising costs. **Minner** reported that contributing factors include rising material prices and, recently, labor shortages. **Minner** said Gafcon is addressing these issues by tightening bid specifications, evaluating project delays, reevaluating delivery methods, monitoring material prices and working harder at outreach to secure a greater number of competitive bids.



Reports to the Board

Board member **Deanna Weeks** reported that she enjoyed the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Science & Technology Mall at Cuyamaca College.

Trustee **Bill Garrett** attended an ASGC luncheon for campus clubs and their advisors, saying the large number of clubs impressed him. **Garrett** commended **Beth Smith**, Grossmont College Academic Senate President, on her letter to the editor in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, "It was the most cogent summary of your issues."

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

Rick Alexander, Timothy L. Caruthers, D.C., Wendell R. Cutting, Bill Garrett, Deanna Weeks

STUDENT MEMBERS: Peter Anderson, Bill Stanford

Chancellor: Omero Suarez, Ph.D. • Grossmont President: Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. • Cuyamaca President: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Bill Stanford** said he was proud of the ASCC holding more student and campus events this semester.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Peter Anderson** expressed his concerns about letters to the editor in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* criticizing some Cuyamaca College courses that draw older students. He noted that his own grandmother lived her last two years in an assisted living facility, and older members of the community are an important part of the community served by community colleges.

Ben Lastimado, Vice Chancellor-Human Resources, reported that United Faculty and the Governing Board negotiating team would begin mediation April 29.

Beth Smith, Grossmont College Academic Senate President, commented on the demographic study workshop prior to the Board meeting, including concern about the ability of the district to attract new faculty.

Jan Ford, Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President, thanked Board members for attending the Science & Technology Mall groundbreaking ceremony.

Pat Murray, Classified Senate representative, thanked everyone who contributed to the success of Classified Staff Appreciation Day.

ASGC representatives **Rick Walker**, **Peter Anderson**, **Kellie Goettsch**, and **Ryan Kaufman** and advisor **Victoria Howitt** attended the National Student Advocacy Conference held by the American Student Association of Community Colleges in Washington, D.C., during spring break.

Views expressed to Governing Board

Michael Golden (Grossmont biology) expressed concerns about shared governance and some optimism that we have begun to “turn the corner.” **Pat Setzer** (Cuyamaca music) highlighted the new transfer degree in music education being added at Cuyamaca

College; made possible by the communication arts building.

Sylvia Montejano (Grossmont EOPS) and **Jennifer Carmean** (Grossmont ASL) chastised the Board and Chancellor **Suarez** for remarks made at the March 2005 Board meeting by trustees, and 2005 meetings between the Chancellor and Grossmont College Academic Senate officers.

Grossmont College Report

- Grossmont College President **Ted Martinez, Jr.**, invited everyone to the Grossmont College Conference Room to see a new display of facilities plans and progress. Another display will be installed in the Student Center.
- **Dr. Martinez** thanked **Walter Sachau**, **Tim Flood**, and **Dr. Debra Fitzsimons** for helping Grossmont exceed its state recycling requirements for the fourth straight year.
- **Dr. Martinez** reported a four-week “spring bonus session” in June will help students complete needed transfer courses before the SDSU June 30 deadline.
- President **Martinez** reported that all facilities at Grossmont College had been reviewed for safety and found safe. Faculty and staff have been reminded to report any unsafe condition immediately.

Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine M. Perri** congratulated **Dr. Ezequiel Cardenas** for receiving the 2005 Award for Teaching Excellence from the Academic Senate, and **Dr. Peter Utgaard** for a recent interview on Voice of America radio.
- **Dr. Perri** reported that nearly \$20,000 in scholarships were awarded to 24 students at the 24th Annual Botanical Society Scholarship and Awards Program.
- Sixty-six high school students participated in the 22nd Annual Math Science Field Day, including a strong contingent from East County schools.

Staff Notes

Welcome to new Cuyamaca College classified employee **Maximo Delos Santos**, Custodian, and Grossmont

College classified employee **Darlene Rosemary**, Clerical Assistant.

Congratulations to **Robert Wilson**, Grounds Maintenance Worker, Senior, Grossmont College, on his new assignment.

Welcome to new Grossmont College academic employees **Tara Jacobson**, Health Education/Exercise Science Instructor; **Brian Jennings**, Political Science Instructor; **Todd Myers**, Political Science/Economics Instructor; **Helen Potter**, Cardiovascular Technology Instructor, and **Mary Ann Simanello**, Medical-Surgical Nursing Instructor.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 5, 11 a.m.
EOPS Student Recognition Ceremony, Cuyamaca LRC Patio

Friday, May 6, 12 noon
Grossmont College Foundation Brad Daluiso Golf Classic, Barona Creek Golf Club

Saturday, May 7, 8:30 a.m.
Auto Skills Day, Cuyamaca Automotive Technology Complex

Tuesday, May 10, 10 a.m.
Fall (& Summer) Schedule Debut & Registration Kick Off and Vice Presidents' Annual BBQ, Cuyamaca LRC Patio/Lawn Area

Thursday, May 12, 5:30 p.m.
Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony, Cuyamaca One-Stop Center

Friday, May 13, 5:30 p.m.
Transfer Achievement Celebration, Grossmont Student Center

Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m.
Students of Note Awards, Griffin Gate

Friday, May 20, 5:30 p.m.
Student Transfer Celebration, Cuyamaca One-Stop Center

Wednesday, May 25, 10 a.m.
Grossmont Science Building Groundbreaking

Thursday, May 26, 6:30 p.m.
Districtwide Retirement Dinner, Marina Village

G Demographics Workshop

An attentive audience at Griffin Gate, Grossmont College, attended a special board workshop focused on local, regional, and state data just prior to the April 19, 2005, Governing Board meeting. The panel discussion was part of the District's baseline strategic planning. Titled "Looking Ahead: A Demographic Analysis and Policy Perspectives," the discussion featured three panel members.

Who we serve now

Dr. Brad Phillips, Cal-PASS Project Executive Director, and the former Director of the District's Institutional Research, Planning and Academic Services, provided a look at the students of Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, their communities and their characteristics.

Dr. Phillips said District enrollment patterns on both campuses are similar, peaking in Fall 2002 and Spring 2003, and declining slightly commensurate with state budget constraints. Overall, there has been a tremendous amount of growth at the region's community colleges in the past five years, especially where new housing is being constructed in the North County and South Bay.

Community college students primarily attend the college campuses closest to them. At Grossmont College, the largest number of students comes from Santee and El Cajon. At Cuyamaca College, students come from El Cajon and Spring Valley. But another important fact to note at Grossmont is that just 60 percent of the students come from inside the district's boundaries. Many others attend from the San Carlos/Navajo and College area communities of San Diego. Of the 20 percent of Cuyamaca College's enrollment from outside the district, most are from the Southwestern Community College District. **Dr. Phillips** said a study is now under way to examine these trends.

Dr. Phillips noted that in 2006, the state would institute a new high school exit exam. Currently, twenty percent of students who take the exit exam aren't passing and receive an alternate diploma. If they decide to attend college, it's likely the community college system will absorb them and deal with their lack of preparation. Overall, more high school graduates are coming directly to community colleges than in years past.

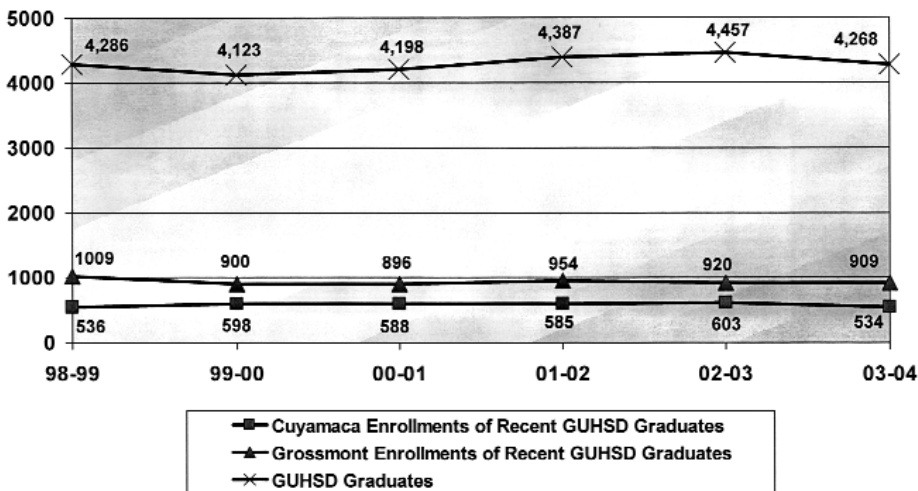
Both campuses are growing more diverse, with a decline in non-Hispanic white students from 62 percent in 2000 to 54 percent in 2004.

A regional outlook

The regional context of growth and population demographics for the East County was discussed by **Dr. John Weeks**, Professor of Geography, San Diego State University, and Director of the International Population Center at SDSU. Dr. Weeks reviewed the history of growth in the East County, the characteristics of the population, and what it could mean for the future.

Ratio of projected population age 15-24 in 2030 to that age group in 2004, by Subregional Area (from SANDAG)	
SRA	2030/2004
Sweetwater	2.30
Mt. Empire	1.56
Jamul	1.33
Alpine	1.19
Ramona	1.13
La Mesa	1.10
Laguna-Pine Valley	1.09
El Cajon	1.04
Lakeside	1.00
Santee	1.00
Elliot-Navajo	0.98
Lemon Grove	0.88
Spring Valley	0.86
Harbison-Crest	0.82
ALL regions	1.03

Grossmont Union High School District Graduation and Enrollment at Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College



We know how many students we have now in San Diego County, but how many will there be in the future? **Dr. Weeks** said two factors affect population: the birth rate, and "in and out" migration. Currently both factors are relatively flat. Board President **Wendell Cutting** asked **Dr. Weeks** if he sees this changing. "Migration is heavily affected by economics, and the biggest problem right now is housing prices," said **Dr. Weeks**. San Diego State University and UCSD

are both having trouble recruiting faculty due to housing prices that are dramatically higher than other parts of the county. So net migration may show a loss.

Past birth patterns are more important than migration in gauging the need for community college attendance. Who of those born 18 years ago will be attending community colleges today? Who of those born 15 years ago will attend in a few years? **Dr. Weeks** predicted a slight dip in enrollment based on the birth rate, but then an upsurge for the next few years as the so-called "Tidal Wave II" population reaches college age. "With Tidal Wave II, there are increasing numbers of people of college age at a time we don't have resources to deal with it, but we have to deal with it anyway," said **Dr. Weeks**. If CSU and UC schools cannot take any more students, there will be the obvious impact on community colleges.

Dr. Weeks noted that more than half of all births in San Diego County are to Hispanic women, and growth will continue where there is land to build on in the East County areas such as Mountain Empire, Jamul, Alpine, and Ramona.

State policies and their impact

Putting all the facts and figures in context from a state perspective fell to **Dr. Steve Boilard**, Director of Higher Education/Community Colleges, Office of the Legislative Analyst, Sacramento.

Dr. Boilard offered a different view on the impact of the "Tidal Wave II" babies, and said the Legislative Analyst's Office is more concerned about a key ingredient – participation rates. "You have pretty reliable projections on population. But the other part of the equation is how many of them want to go to college?" said **Dr. Boilard**. He noted that participation rates are highly volatile, affected by many factors. "There is an elasticity of demand for consuming higher education," said **Dr. Boilard**. "The desire to enroll, fee levels, kinds of courses offered, time offered, outreach, financial aid policies... for community colleges, it's also affected by what's going on at the CSU and UC systems."

"Statewide we don't have a policy on participation," said **Dr. Boilard**. "One-

eighth of high school graduates can go to UC, and one-third to CSU. But how many people do we want going to college?"

Dr. Boilard admitted, "We in Sacramento tend to be very unfair to you. We say, as opposed to UC or CSU that have defined eligibility pools and admissions criteria, the community colleges are identified in the master plan as the safety net. So there are open doors and open access, but we're only going to fund you for 'this many' students this year. That's why there are two critical questions: how do we fund and how do we allocate out to the districts?"

Dr. Boilard continued, "Are we prepared for Tidal Wave II? I think it's the wrong question. The question is as a state, how much higher education should we be providing? Our enrollment funding decisions in Sacramento are the main driver in terms of local community college access."

"Demographics provide a good baseline, but let's stand back and look at larger expectations. Can local decisions affect enrollment? Yes, within limits. But we need to give you more tools to make your choices," concluded **Dr. Boilard**.

In open discussion

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** commented, "In the hearts of educators we want to educate everybody. What we want to say is, how many do we want to pay for?" **Dr. Boilard** replied, "Yes. We're looking at a significant structural deficit in (the state) budget. We still need to make some real choices and priorities on what we fund. It's not just a matter of how many you want to educate – but at the margins, do you want to educate another one percent or spend more on welfare? This is the way we need to look at our priorities on funding."

Board members and audience members asked questions and offered observations. Grossmont College Philosophy Instructor **Bill Hoaglin** asked **Dr. Weeks** whether he believed community colleges would have a hard time attracting quality faculty members. **Dr. Weeks** replied, "Every company, every business, every organization is impacted by the fact that wages are proportionately lower than places with less expensive housing."

Grossmont Biology Professor **Craig Milgrim** asked about data on the choices students make in the district about whether to wait a semester to take a class they need, and where they attend? **Dr. Phillips** replied, "When we've done focus groups, one major complaint students have is you don't have a class available at time I want to take it. We don't have classes at all times." **Dr. Phillips** said one result is the 'swirl effect,' students who shop around at other campuses and other districts for more convenient and available classes.

Dr. Weeks says in the end, it's important to remember that the reports are based on projections. "We don't really have any good way of modeling. These are not predictions of what will happen, but a projection of the way things might turn out if the data patterns continue."

Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 17, 2005, at Heritage of the Americas Museum, Cuyamaca College. The open session will begin at 6:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Chancellor's Open Office Hours

Cuyamaca College in the President's Conference Room on May 6, at 8 a.m.

Grossmont College in the Grossmont College Conference Room on May 5 at 11 a.m.

District Office in the District Annex Conference Room on May 18 at 8:30 a.m.