



Week of March 14, 2005

Volume 13, Number 3

NEWS FROM THE MARCH 15 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Cutting sets tone for discussion

Governing Board President **Wendell Cutting** began the March meeting with heartfelt words about the direction of the District and his hopes for addressing difficult issues with respect. **Cutting** said he was very disappointed in the no confidence vote by the Grossmont College Academic Senate. He urged everyone involved to keep focused on academic excellence. "Student success must always be the number one priority in our considerations. The noblest cause in the world is education."

"People should be able to disagree without being disagreeable," said **Cutting**. He stated that the Chancellor has the "full confidence and support of this Board."

Cutting noted the reference at the Grossmont College Academic Senate meeting to dangerous conditions in some buildings and requested a report from Grossmont College President **Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.**, on the current condition of any campus buildings that might cause danger or harm to anyone. (Cutting's full statement is attached.)

Task Force guidelines adopted

The Governing Board unanimously adopted vision and values to guide the

work of the Income Allocation Task Force including a reiteration of commitment to two comprehensive, separately accredited institutions. The new Board guidelines were requested by the task force.

Varela honored with Chancellor/Classified Senate Award



Daniel Varela
photo by Phu Nguyen

Daniel Varela, Mail Processor at Cuyamaca College, received the March 2005 Chancellor/Classified Senate Award. Chancellor **Omero Suarez** said **Varela**

presides over the mailroom "with sincere competence and a calmness that is catching. He is alert and sensitive to the needs and expectations of his colleagues, and often finds solutions before a problem becomes worse." Cuyamaca Dean of Administrative Services **Arleen Satele** reported that, as an example of his fiscal efficiency, **Varela** was recently able to combine two recent mailings into one, saving \$700. Classified Senate president **Rocky Rose** presented **Varela** several gifts to mark his achievement.



Reports to the Board

- Governing Board members attended grand opening ceremonies for the Cuyamaca College Automotive Technology Complex, as well as a tribute luncheon for outgoing State Senator **Dede Alpert**, which Trustee **Deanna Weeks** said was an incredibly moving and emotional event.

- Jim Austin**, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, said the next six months would be the most challenging for the capital construction program. Increases in construction costs will continue to impact projects.

- Dana Quittner**, Sr. Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development & Public Information, presented a brief overview of shared governance, its structure, and how it is applied in the District. Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine M. Perri** and Grossmont College President **Martinez** discussed the application of shared governance principles on their campuses.

- Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President **Jan Ford** said the student learning outcomes presentation by Cuyamaca College staff at a recent statewide conference was well received by a "standing room only" crowd. She also reported a successful "Math Field Day" attended by 100 students from 11 different high schools.

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.

- Administrators Association President **Dr. Al Taccone** said the Association has filed for recognition by the Public Employee Relations Board. He expressed confidence in the strong relationship the Association has with the Governing Board and Chancellor.
- CSEA representative **Dave McDade** said CSEA disagreed with the no confidence vote by the Grossmont College Academic Senate.

Public Comment

Rick Walker, Associated Students of Grossmont College President, addressed Governing Board members about adoption by the ASGC board of four priorities for the 2005-06 year, textbook prices, health services, food services, and smoking. Rising textbook prices “are a growing barrier to access” and the top priority for students, said **Walker**.

Grossmont College counselor **Mary Rider** read a letter of support from the Grossmont College Council of Chairs and Coordinators for President **Martinez** and his leadership team.

Grossmont College biology faculty member **Michael Golden** questioned demographic information that shows Cuyamaca’s ability to grow.

Cuyamaca College tutor **Cynthia Koether** expressed concerns regarding operation of the Tutoring Center.

Dr. Sami Jihad commended the Governing Board for its support of Chancellor **Suarez**.

Project under budget

Trustee **Rick Alexander** commended **Jim Austin**, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, and his staff for bringing in the Cuyamaca College One-Stop Parking Lot project in under budget.



Grossmont College Report

- Grossmont College President **Ted Martinez, Jr.**, thanked everyone who participated in the college’s Leadership Planning Retreat.

- President **Martinez** said, thanks to the efforts of Tom Gamboa, the 17th Annual Grossmont College Powwow generated more than \$4,000 for the Indian Scholarship Fund.
- **Dr. P.J. Ortmeier**, Administration of Justice Professor, co-authored a recent article in *The Police Chief*, titled “Preparing Leaders for Law Enforcement.”



Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine M. Perri** commended those involved in the success of the Automotive Technology Complex Grand Opening.
- **Dr. Perri** announced that online counseling resources would now be available to Cuyamaca College students.
- District Forensic Team Advisors **Nancy Jennings** and **Roxanne Tuscany** coordinated the recent statewide speech and debate tournament. The District’s team won several bronze awards.

GC Academic Senate resolution draws response

Grossmont College Academic Senate President **Beth Smith** presented the Governing Board with its Resolution of No Confidence in Chancellor **Omero Suarez**.

Smith said faculty members had “grave concerns,” believing that previous attempts to bring their concerns to the attention of trustees had not worked. **Smith** said the Academic Senate does not believe it is getting information, does not trust budget or demographic data provided, and does not believe shared governance is working.

Trustee **Rick Alexander** responded that **Dr. Suarez** and the Board are “looking out for the best interests of all students . . . The Governing Board will continue to focus on the needs of the District.”

Board member **Deanna Weeks** said, “We are listening, even if there’s no agreement . . . In a time of tight resources, it’s an unfortunate reality that both colleges will have unmet needs . . . There are times we have to make hard decisions that are unpopular.” **Weeks** provided information from Rancho San

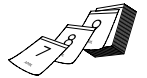
Trustee **Bill Garrett** spoke: “I am dumbfounded that one group has all these problems, but not one other constituent group in the entire District has these problems.” **Garrett** said the resolution was not backed up with facts.

Governing Board member **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** echoed the support of all Board members for the Chancellor and administrative leadership, saying, “This board will not fold.”

Staff Notes

Cuyamaca College welcomes new classified employees **Maria Heimpel**, Ornamental Horticulture Technician, and **Pamela Profeta**, College Cashier.

Calendar of Events



Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.
Science and Technology Mall
Groundbreaking, Cuyamaca College Quad

Wednesday, April 20, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Grossmont College Health and Wellness Fair, Main Quad

Saturday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. auction, 7 p.m. dinner
Cuyamaca College Foundation Dinner Dance, Hyatt Islandia Hotel

Next Meeting

The Governing Board’s next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 19, 2005, at Griffin Gate, Grossmont College. The open session will begin at 5:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

Chancellor’s Open Office Hours

- Cuyamaca College in the President’s Conference Room on April 21 and May 6, at 8 a.m.
- Grossmont College in the Grossmont College Conference Room on April 7 and May 5, at 11 a.m.
- District Office in the District Annex Conference Room on April 20 and May 18, all at 8:30 a.m.