



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Courier

Providing highlights of the Governing Board meetings for faculty and staff
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Week of November 13, 2006

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NEWS FROM THE NOVEMBER 14 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

From Closed Session

The governing board voted 4-0 to authorize the chancellor to suspend an employee 15 days without pay pending administrative review.

Board President **Deanna Weeks** reported the board did not confer with counsel regarding cabinet-level employment contracts because an investigation is still under way. The investigation is being conducted by attorney Clifford Weiler of the law firm Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo. The firm has not done any previous business with the district and does not expect to do so in the future.

Smoking policy approved

Governing board members approved a districtwide smoking policy restricting smoking to designated areas. The policy will be reviewed in one year to evaluate further action. Grossmont College student **Crystal Sudano**, **Evelyn Hogan** of Communities Against Substance Abuse, **Debbie Kelly** of the American Lung Association, and GC alumni **Shawn Bents** spoke in favor of the policy, urging board members to examine the placement of the designated smoking areas and to work toward the smoke-free goal.

Nursing Program addressed

Grossmont College Interim President **Dean Colli** informed board members of

the challenges facing the Nursing Program. **Dr. Colli** said the difficulty attracting and retaining full- and part-time faculty, the difficulty finding a permanent program administrator, and challenges securing accreditation from the National League of Nursing Accreditation threaten the health of the program.

Dr. Colli said the situation is getting a lot of attention, including aggressive recruitment and ongoing compensation discussions with United Faculty. Trustees expressed concern and frustration that the problem had been brewing for a year and was only now being brought to the board's attention.

Chancellor **Omero Suarez** said the district is working with the union to try and come up with a solution to the compensation issue.

Board policies vote continued

Trustees delayed voting on board policy updates, with the exception of the smoking policy, asking for more information on each. Trustee **Bill Garrett** asked staff to present procedures for implementation along with policy changes.

Colleges mission statements approved; District delayed

The Governing Board approved mission statements for Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges. Trustee **Garrett** asked for a staff report at next month's meeting regarding language in the District Mission Statement.

Conflict of interest

Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** expressed concerns about conflict of interest among board members. Responding to a question from Trustee **Garrett**, Vice Chancellor-Business Services **Jim Austin** suggested delivering draft ratification documents to board members at the same time as the Districtwide Executive Council review to allow trustees more time to identify and report potential conflicts.

Program Reviews update

Governing board members received reports from both the Cuyamaca and Grossmont Program Review Committees. Cuyamaca co-chairs **Dr. Madeleine Wolfe** and **Nancy Jennings** said the reports on the six programs, which include Business & Professional Studies, Business Office Technology, Computer Aided Drafting & Design, Computer & Information Science, Environmental Health & Safety Technology, and Graphic Design, drive planning and assist programs in improvement and growth.

All program reviews included student-learning outcomes and were data driven and outcome based. "We ask," said **Dr. Wolfe**, "How do our programs support college values, district values, and our mission?"

Grossmont chairman **Scott Barr** said, "We want to insure the quality and

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

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

STUDENT MEMBERS: Pat Ardilla, Cathy Keyes

Chancellor: Omero Suarez, Ph.D. • Grossmont Interim President: Dean Colli, Ed.D. • Cuyamaca President: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

excellence of our academic programs” through this process. Programs reviewed at Grossmont include Learning Resource Center, Social & Behavioral Sciences, History, ESL, English, Foreign Language, and Respiratory Therapy.

The review covered highlights and recommendations for each program. All programs are reviewed in a five-year cycle.

Reports to the Board

Trustees **Deanna Weeks**, **Rick Alexander**, and **Bill Garrett** were congratulated on their re-election to the governing board, and newly elected board member **Greg Barr** was welcomed. “It’s a gratifying vote of confidence by the voters of East County,” said **Weeks**.

Board President **Weeks**, reporting on her research regarding ethical conduct of trustees, said that key principles include civility, decorum, and consideration for others, responsible self-restraint, and “no surprises.”

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Pat Ardilla** said he hopes students will remain the center of attention.

Trustee **Rick Alexander** said he hopes board members can get back to the serious business of governance.

Trustee **Bill Garrett** said he appreciated the support he received during the election.

Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** said he enjoyed the Grossmont College Foundation Gala.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Cathy Keyes** spoke to the American Association of University Women and was awarded a scholarship.

Sue Rearic, Associate Vice Chancellor-Business Services/Controller, provided a report on management, retention and destruction of the district’s public records.

Jan Ford, Cuyamaca College Academic Senate president, reported that the Senate has been busy reviewing state plenary session resolutions and board policies and procedures.

Beth Smith, Grossmont College Academic Senate president, reported that the state plenary had papers on minor students in the classroom, the role of non-credit courses, and equivalencies. **Smith** also commented on the nursing program crisis.

Zoe Close, United Faculty president, beseeched the Governing Board to locate

bigger venues for board meetings on both campuses. **Close** also noted President **Weeks**’ research on ethical issues, citing goodwill as the most important item.



Grossmont College Report

Interim Grossmont College President **Dean Colli** announced grand openings for the Science Laboratory Building, January 17, and the Digital Arts & Sculpture Building Complex, February 2.

Dr. Colli reported a disaster drill is scheduled November 30 to fine-tune campus emergency preparedness.

Dr. Colli congratulated AOJ Instructor **Tina Young** for the publication of her article in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Forensic Identification*.



Cuyamaca College Update

Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine M. Perri** commended Political Science Instructor **Steve McCamman** for his campus film series.

Dr. Perri announced expansion of the Child Development Center’s “Seniors4Kids” program.

Dr. Perri reported that 28 four-year colleges and universities were present at the college’s Annual Transfer Fair and close to 800 student contacts were made.

Staff Notes

The District welcomes new classified employees **Dawn Heuft**, Administrative Secretary; **Ryan Montalvan**, Public Safety Officer; and **Ann Solom**, Personnel Assistant.

Welcome to new Cuyamaca College classified employees **Sara Downs**, Account Clerk; **Gwendolyn Nix** and **Sandra Richie**, Administrative Secretaries; and **Avelina Wilder**, Assistant College Cashier. Congratulations to **Laci Misiano**, Business Services Facilitator, on her new assignment.

Grossmont College welcomes new classified employees **Lillian Ket**, Financial Aid Technician; **MaryAnn Landry**, Administrative Secretary; and **Marcia Suter**, Clerical Assistant.

Grossmont College welcomes new academic employees **Jill Carleton**, Communications Instructor; and **Agustin Albarran**, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs.

Calendar of Events



Friday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. CARE Holiday Celebration, Water Conservation Garden, Cuyamaca College

Friday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m. CARE Holiday Celebration, Student Center, Grossmont College

Monday, Dec. 11, 6-7:30 p.m. Nurses’ Pinning Ceremony, Student Center, Grossmont College

Next Meeting

The Governing Board’s next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at Griffin Gate, Grossmont College. The open session will begin at 6:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Public Comments

Mary Rider, chair of the Grossmont College Council of Chairs and Coordinators, urged the governing board to address unresolved issues.

Crystal Sudano, Grossmont College student, asked trustees to address problems with the student newspaper course.

Terrie Nichols, Cuyamaca math instructor, **Bonnie Schmiege**, Grossmont counselor, and **Michael Golden**, Grossmont biology professor, spoke about the nursing program and resolution of issues.

Felicia Buss, Monte Vista High School student, and her father **Eric Buss**, expressed their anger about the medical leave of Felicia’s mother, a district employee.

Drew Massicot, Grossmont counselor, read his e-mail regarding the chancellor’s contract.

Dave McDade, Financial Aid assistant, urged employees to concentrate on students and stop bickering.