



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# The Courier

Providing highlights of the Governing Board meetings for faculty and staff  
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Week of April 16, 2007

Volume 15, Number 4

## NEWS FROM THE APRIL 17 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

### Virginia Tech tragedy

Governing board members, administrators, faculty, staff and students spoke to the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech. Board President **Rick Alexander** reported that it was with “a sad heart” that condolences had been sent to Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University expressing our sorrow. He asked for a moment of silence for all who have been touched by this tragedy.

**Alexander** said he and other board members have inquired about our own preparation for such a disaster and reported that staff had re-affirmed that district policies and procedures are in place, are updated and, “most importantly, regularly practiced in order to anticipate, deter and resolve potential violent situations.” Among procedures in place are the presence of emergency phones in each classroom and parking lot.

Chancellor **Omero Suarez** said that the district will be looking at everything we presently do in preparation.

### EOPS expansion approved

The board approved remodeling within the Grossmont College Student Center to expand EOPS offices. Options were discussed, including problems with a delay and that alternatives such as modular buildings would not save money and would reduce parking capacity. EOPS Counselor **Sylvia Montejano** said the lack of space is preventing service

delivery to students. ASGC President **Sierra Sievers** expressed support for the project based on ASGC input. Students **Wendy Hutson, Wayne Beach** and **Crystal Sudano** stated their concerns about losing Student Center space which also serves many students.

Board members **Deanna Weeks** and **Greg Barr** said they were troubled about spending \$300,000 on a temporary solution to the problem, and **Weeks** and **Alexander** preferred a month’s delay to consider alternatives. The proposal passed on a 3-2 vote, Trustees **Bill Garrett, Greg Barr** and **Timothy Caruthers** in support; **Deanna Weeks** and **Rick Alexander** opposed.

### Retreat rights briefing

District counsel **Jack Sleeth, Jr.**, provided an overview of retreat rights. These rights govern the employment of administrators after they vacate a position. They are, with certain exceptions, he explained, extended to individuals who were tenured faculty prior to being hired as an administrator. When an individual is hired from outside the district without tenure, he or she may still have retreat rights under certain circumstances to become a first year probationary faculty member. It requires an agreed upon process between the Governing Board and Academic Senate, designed to ensure the individual meets minimum qualifications.

**Sleeth** said the district does not have to create an open position where one doesn’t already exist.

### Landry honored with award

**MaryAnn Landry**, administrative secretary for Humanities and Social/Behavioral Sciences at Grossmont College, was honored as this quarter’s Chancellor/Classified Senate Award winner. Chancellor **Suarez** said **Landry** was selected due to her outstanding work, exceptional interpersonal skills, and exemplary professional attitude. “We are very fortunate to have someone like MaryAnn,” said **Suarez**.

Grossmont College Deans **Fred Allen**, Business and Professional Studies, and **Dr. Janet Castanos**, Humanities and Social/Behavioral Sciences, concurred and added their praises. Classified Senate Representative **Dave McDade** presented **Landry** with an award and gift card.

### Vocational programs approved

Trustees unanimously accepted a review of district vocational training programs that recommended continued funding. There was confusion over Grossmont College journalism, which, unlike the rest of Media Communications, is not currently a vocational program,

#### Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

Rick Alexander, Greg Barr, 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.

reported Dean **Fred Allen**. The issue will be reviewed further.

## Other Board Actions

Governing board members unanimously approved revisions to Board Policy 2715, Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice, adding a section on violations.

Trustees unanimously approved a cost of living allowance (COLA) salary increase of four percent for Confidential Support Staff who are not included in any bargaining unit.

A vote to ratify Personnel Actions (item 501) was tabled by governing board members until next month's meeting.

## Construction Report

Gafcon Project Manager **Joe Minner** reported there is lots of construction activity.

Approval has been received for the Grossmont College Exercise Science/Wellness Building. Parking options at Grossmont are being evaluated.

**Minner** reported that there will be at least five vacancies on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee. Applications are available online and in the Chancellor's office.



## Reports to the Board

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Cathy Keyes** announced her resignation (one month early) due to health problems. She thanked everyone for their help and support.

Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** asked if it was possible to provide board minutes sooner to DEC members.

Trustee **Bill Garrett** asked for implementation of a process to follow up inquiries to the board when action is not being taken at the same meeting.

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** said the collegial consultation workshop was "extremely useful," and that she was very pleased to learn from one of the presenters that the district's policies and procedures are a model for the rest of the state.

Trustee **Greg Barr** said he was still concerned about the votes of no confidence from various constituent groups, that he'd like to discuss improving the part-time/full-time ratio of faculty, and suggested the possibility of board meetings twice per month.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Pat Ardilla** urged individuals to become blood donors after a personal experience. He thanked the Cuyamaca Academic Senate for meeting with the ASCC.



## Grossmont College Report

- Grossmont College Interim President **Dean Colli** reported that 45 campus representatives participated in the Collegewide Leadership Planning Retreat held March 29. A draft list of college-wide priorities was developed and will go to the Planning & Budget Council.
- **Dr. Colli** announced that framed copies of the new college Mission Statement will be posted on interior walls in various campus locations.
- San Diego County Learning Communities consortium members will meet at Grossmont College on April 20 to share current practices and brainstorm retention strategies.



## Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College Vice President of Instruction **Cristina Chiriboga** said the Ornamental Horticulture Department achieved record sales last year of \$58,806.
- **Dr. Chiriboga** announced that over 150 staff from both campuses attended Classified Staff Appreciation Day.
- The 44th Annual Senior High Math Field Day at Cuyamaca College hosted numerous local high school teams and was sponsored by Cuyamaca, Grossmont and Mesa colleges.
- Numerous upcoming events were announced and new staff introduced.

## Staff Notes

**Beth Smith**, Grossmont College Academic Senate president, said the situation at Virginia Tech has caused much concern and fears among faculty members.

**Jan Ford**, Cuyamaca College Academic Senate president, was pleased the new curriculum package passed on the consent calendar, noting that it is a major document.

**Brad Tiffany**, Administrators Association president, disagreed with counsel **Jack Sleeth's** opinion about retreat rights related to course load.

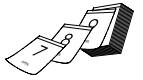
**Dave McDade**, Classified Senate

representative, thanked the board for its support of Classified Staff Appreciation Day.

**Zoe Close**, United Faculty president, asked the governing board to consider a district retreat.

**Jan Recktenwald**, CSEA president, said the organization is working on constitutional language changes and electing delegates to the annual state conference.

## Calendar of Events



*Thursday, April 26, 6 p.m.* Cuyamaca College Botanical Society Scholarship & Awards Banquet, Handlery Hotel, Mission Valley

*Saturday, April 28, 5 p.m.* Cuyamaca College Foundation Dinner Dance, Marriott Hotel, Mission Valley

*Monday, April 30, 10 a.m.* Grossmont College Foundation Brad Dalusio Golf Classic, Sycuan Resort (Singing Hills)

## Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 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.

## Public Comments

Speakers included **Jan Recktenwald**, CSEA Chapter 707 president, opposing statements made at the March board meeting by several CSEA members; **Zoe Close**, United Faculty president, seeking clarification of the March governing board minutes; **Beth Smith**, Grossmont College Academic Senate president, on methods for following up communication at governing board meetings; **Rick Walker**, on the California Public Record Act; **Brian Inskip**, Cuyamaca College student, on discrimination against him; Student **Sean Bentz** on enforcement of the smoking policy; **Christa Lee Brynwood**, former student, on campus security; **Marjorie Ellis**, Grossmont College student, on the poor condition of some restrooms; and **Crystal Sudano**, Grossmont College student, on a variety of issues affecting students.