



Week of January 15, 2007

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NEWS FROM THE JANUARY 16 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

District receives six clean audits – again

The District, Foundations and Auxiliaries, Prop. R Building Fund, and Pension Eligible Alternative Retirement (PEAR) Plan all received “unqualified” or clean audits from the accounting firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Company, LLP, for 2005-06. Auditor **Heidi White** said, “This is the highest level of assurance we can give you on financial statements. We do not give this out lightly. . . . It’s very positive for the district.”

Jim Austin, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, praised staff who work throughout the year to produce these results, particularly Associate Vice Chancellor-District Business Services **Sue Rearic**.

Gafcon report

Gafcon Project Manager **Joe Minner** reported that all building projects are progressing on schedule. **Minner** outlined several energy management features incorporated into the new buildings, such as “cool roofs,” motion sensors on lights and double pane glass windows. The district will receive rebates from San Diego Gas & Electric for energy savings.

Minner credited leadership and hard work by faculty and staff on both campuses helping prepare the new buildings for the beginning of the Spring semester.

New officers sworn in



Photo by Frank Laveaga

Director of Public Safety **Joel Javines** introduced four new officers and conducted swearing in and badge pinning ceremonies with Board President **Rick Alexander**. The new officers are (from l to r) **Kenneth Coleman, Ryan Montalvan, Scott Smith, and Nick Wilson**.

Austin resignation

Vice Chancellor **Jim Austin** announced his resignation from the district upon accepting a new position as vice president of business and administrative services at MiraCosta College, effective Feb. 1. “I can only hope that my tenure at MiraCosta will be as fulfilling, enriching and enjoyable as my 13-year tenure here has been,” said **Austin**. “As fabulous as the MiraCosta opportunity is, it is difficult for me to imagine that I’ll have a better boss than (Chancellors) **Jeanne Atherton** or **Omero Suarez**, or a more committed and supportive board, or a better cadre of staff. . . . I wish there was enough time tonight for me to thank

everyone,” added **Austin**.

Chancellor **Omero Suarez** and others praised **Austin**’s work and accomplishments.

Award goes to Greco

Vicki Greco, Cuyamaca College Child Development Center Assistant Senior, received the quarterly Chancellor/Classified Senate Award as the district’s outstanding employee. Chancellor **Omero Suarez** called her “an inspiration . . .” Center Director **Linda Haar** said **Greco** was a valued member of the staff. “Our Center is a busy place. . . .



Vicki Greco

Photo by Phu Nguyen

Vicki is committed to making sure every child has a good experience.” **Marie Ramos**, Dean of Continuing Education and Special Programs, credited staff like **Greco** for the quality of the Center. **Maggie Gonzales** presented **Greco** with a \$250 gift certificate on behalf of the Classified Senate.

Governor’s budget stronger than expected

Vice Chancellor **Austin** reported that Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**’s proposed 2007-08 budget reinforces the

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.

Governor's support for community colleges. Funding would increase for nursing and technical education programs. "It is just the starting point. We should be vigilant," said **Austin**.

Following **Austin's** report, **Dana Quittner**, Sr. Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development & Public Information, briefed board members on the Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act, a proposed initiative now submitting signatures to place it on the June 2008 ballot.

College budget priorities

Grossmont College Interim President **Dean Colli** and Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine Perri** discussed the Budget Committee process at their respective colleges for establishing 2006-07 budget priorities, including guiding parameters, key areas of focus, and alignment with their colleges' Strategic Plans. Presidents identified faculty and staff positions, facilities support costs, outreach and marketing, and equipment as unfunded college needs at their respective campuses.

Contract requested

Trustee **Bill Garrett** requested district lawyers to prepare a contract for the Grossmont College Interim President for board approval including the proposed increase in compensation. His motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

From Closed Session

With a vote of 5-0, the governing board voted to authorize attorneys to obtain right of entry order on the Gleich Family Trust property, north of the Grossmont College soccer fields near the district office.

Reports to the board

Trustees thanked Grossmont College for inviting them to its convocation. Trustee **Greg Barr** said, "I was pleased with the attendance and vitality in the room." Trustee **Bill Garrett** said he was

impressed with the qualifications of new faculty introduced at the event.

Garrett asked the chancellor and attorneys to review the recommendations contained in the Investigative Report regarding district cabinet-level contracts and to report at the next board meeting with suggestions for implementation. He also asked that the chancellor's evaluation be put on the closed session agenda. With concurrence from the other board members, Board President **Alexander** said the items would be put on the February agenda.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Pat Ardilla** credited the teamwork between faculty and students for positive enrollment figures.

Governing Board President **Rick Alexander** said it was very important for Grossmont College to get a dynamic, articulate leader and that he hoped the district had hired "the very best firm to help us."

Alexander reported he had talked one on one with many people since the last meeting and gained a lot of insight.

Beth Smith, Grossmont College Academic Senate President, and **Jan Ford**, Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President, invited board members to attend a Senate meeting this semester. **Smith** said the statewide Academic Senate would discuss the consequences of student cheating and the remedies available.

Jan Recktenwald, CSEA President, said the CSEA executive board is spending this month getting a lot of training.

Grossmont College Report

- Interim Grossmont College President **Dean Colli** reported strong enrollment projections for Spring 2007.
- **Dr. Colli** congratulated Art Instructor **Jennifer Bennett** for having her paintings featured in the national magazine *ARTWEEK*.

Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College President **Dr. Geraldine M. Perri** announced an increase in enrollment reports at Cuyamaca for Spring 2007. She called

the results "an all hands effort."

- **Dr. Perri** announced that **Cindy Morrin**, Personal Development Instructor, was one of ten community college instructors statewide selected for the 2006-07 California Virtual Campus Teaching Award for her online course at Cuyamaca.

Staff Notes

Grossmont College welcomes new classified employees **Dennis Sigler** and **Jonathan Wion**, Custodians; and **Linda Hanna**, Admissions & Records Assistant.

Congratulations to **Kelly White**, Grossmont College Grounds Maintenance Worker, Senior, or his new assignment.

Grossmont College welcomes new academic employees **John Colson**, Vice President, Student Services; **Barbara Gillespie**, BOT Instructor; **Helen Liesberg**, ESL Instructor; **Corey Manchester** and **Arturo Millan**, Mathematics Instructors; **Francis Steindorf**, Assistant Dean, EOPS; **Diana Vance**, Chemistry Instructor; and **Laurel Vanlandingham**, Obstetrical Nursing Instructor.

Congratulations to **Greg Gomez**, Cuyamaca College Counselor, on his new assignment.

Calendar of Events

Friday, Feb. 2, 11 a.m. Digital Arts & Sculpture Building Grand Opening, Grossmont College

Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m. Grossmont College Scholarship Awards Breakfast, Student Center

Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007, 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

Ernest Ewin, La Mesa City Council member; **Dr. Lyn Neylon**, Cuyamaca College instructor, representing Citizens for Educational Responsibility; and Grossmont College students **Sean Bentz**, **Crystal Sudano**, and **Ericka Chatas** addressed the board.