



Week of June 19, 2007

Volume 15, Number 6

NEWS FROM THE JUNE 19 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

From Closed Session

Before the board adjourned to Closed Session, speakers **Penny DiBernardo**, Business Representative for CSEA Local 707, and classified employees **Nancy Asbury** and **Dave McDade** addressed the board on a personnel issue. Following Closed Session the governing board voted 3-0-2 to suspend two public employees pending administrative review. Trustees **Deanna Weeks**, **Bill Garrett** and **Rick Alexander** in support, no one voting in opposition and Trustees **Greg Barr** and **Timothy Caruthers** abstaining.

Colli at last board meeting

Grossmont College Interim President **Dean Colli** was recognized by the governing board and Chancellor **Omero Suarez** for his exemplary service to the college and the district. Telling **Dr. Colli** that he would be missed, Governing Board President **Rick Alexander** presented him with a plaque and thanked him for his "tireless service."

Expressing his thoughts upon his retirement from the district after a 35-year career in education, **Colli** said he wanted each person "to know that I deeply appreciate the opportunity to have served our students and all of you, fellow employees of the college and district and members of the governing board."

Dr. Colli said he was particularly grateful for the confidence shown in him while serving as interim president over the past 18 months. The audience gave him a long standing ovation.

Student Trustees sworn in

Governing Board President **Rick Alexander** administered the oath of office to new student trustees **Crystal Bernier-Sudano**, Grossmont College, and **Audrey Causton**, Cuyamaca College.

Emerti Faculty honored

Grossmont College Interim President **Dean Colli** recognized Grossmont College faculty granted emeritus status: **Thomas Tsung**, **Rick Kirby** and **Lorraine Martin**. Presenting the recognition plaque to **Tsung**, **Colli** said, "It is a passion that brings faculty to this service. We couldn't be more appreciative."

CBOC members recognized

Governing Board President **Rick Alexander** thanked outgoing Citizens Board Oversight Committee members **Ken Sobel**, **Charles Fouquette**, **Harvey Goodfriend**, **Patricia McCormack**, **Arkan Somo**, and **Brian Hash** for their service to the district and its citizens. **Sobel**, **Goodfriend** and **Somo** have served since the CBOC was first established. "We have been widely recognized" for their good work, noted **Alexander**. Thanking the board for the opportunity to serve, outgoing chair **Ken Sobel** praised the governing board and district staff for their support.

Trustee **Bill Garrett**, who serves on the Grossmont Union High School

District's bond advisory commission, noted that the college district's approach to its bond measure and CBOC are recognized as models.

Report on district employment of student trustees

District Counsel **Gil Abed** reported to the governing board that based on current Education Code statutes, no trustee, including student trustees, may be employed by the district. Trustee **Bill Garrett** proposed, and the governing board unanimously agreed, to waive attorney-client privilege by action of the governing board at its next meeting so that the full attorney's opinion could be released publicly.

Accreditation, budget approved

Governing board members unanimously approved the Cuyamaca College accreditation self-study report and the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget.

Trustee absence discussed

Trustees discussed Education Code provisions and district policies governing approval of payment for trustee absences from board meetings, as well as the process for setting special meetings of the board. A motion by Trustee **Bill Garrett** to approve payment for absences of trustee **Timothy L. Caruthers** failed for lack of a second.

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

Rick Alexander, Greg Barr, Timothy L. Caruthers, D.C., Bill Garrett, Deanna Weeks
STUDENT MEMBERS: Crystal Bernier-Sudano, Audrey Causton

Chancellor: Omero Suarez, Ph.D. • Grossmont President: Sunita V. Cooke, Ph.D. • Cuyamaca President: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

Hiring process criticized

Governing board members discussed the hiring process for the position of Associate Vice Chancellor Districtwide Academic, Student, Planning and Research Services following testimony by search committee members **Beth Smith** and **Lucy Price**.

Prior to taking testimony, Governing Board President **Rick Alexander** cautioned speakers not to speak about specific personnel issues, break confidentiality or raise in public issues that should be in closed session. **Beth Smith** was called out of order during her testimony for "crossing the line." Chancellor **Omero Suarez** described the hiring process and decision, stating it was a "very clean process."

The governing board adjourned to closed session to discuss the personnel matter. Upon reconvening, the governing board voted 3-1-1 (Trustees **Barr**, **Caruthers**, and **Garrett** in favor, **Alexander** opposed and **Weeks** abstaining) to approve personnel item 501 excluding action on the Associate Vice Chancellor position.

Raise authorized for Cuyamaca College president

Following discussion of the rationale regarding competitive salaries, the board voted 3-2 in favor of a \$10,000 salary increase for the Cuyamaca College president; **Alexander**, **Garrett** and **Weeks** in favor; **Barr** and **Caruthers** against.

Reports to the Board

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** called this year's student graduation speakers "amazing" and called the ceremonies "a joy as always." Trustee **Greg Barr** added that he enjoyed them also and that it was his first experience attending three graduations in a row.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** said she will continue to express student concerns. Number one now is the closing of the cafeteria at noon during summer.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Audrey Causton** thanked the students for trusting her to represent them. She reported on ASCC support for campus events.

Dale Switzer, Senior Director of Facilities Planning and Development,

sitting in for Interim Vice Chancellor **Sue Rearic**, reported the district has received \$167,000 in energy rebates from San Diego Gas & Electric due to the energy efficiency and conservation measures in its five recently completed college buildings.

Dana Quittner, Associate Vice Chancellor, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development & Public Information said a \$300 million mistake in the May state budget may cause some cutbacks in spending, but state budgeting for cost of living adjustments and growth should be safe.

Laura Burger, representing the Grossmont College Academic Senate, reported there are two new board positions, bringing the executive committee to six members.

Jan Ford, Cuyamaca College Academic Senate president, presented a written report of Senate activities including numerous action and information items.

Dave McDade, Classified Senate representative, said elections for the 2007-08 board will take place next month.

Jan Recktenwald, CSEA President, said four members will attend the statewide conference.



Grossmont College Report

- Interim Grossmont College President **Dean Colli** reported an "astounding" 11.2 percent increase in summer enrollment by units over Summer 2006.
- **Dr. Colli** announced the GEAR UP project will receive \$901,000 in funding for its sixth year. Combined with carryover savings, the program should continue into a seventh year.
- One-third of the Middle College High School Class of 2007 has elected to continue their studies at Grossmont College. All 30 grads are college-bound.



Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine Perri** announced "soaring summer enrollment" with an increase of more than 17 percent in units over Summer 2006.
- Vice President of Instruction **Cristina Chiriboga** reported on highlights of the Instructional Division's Annual Report, including development of two new

instructional programs and 100 online courses, the largest number ever.

- Vice President of Administrative Services **Arleen Satele** reported that the County of San Diego presented Cuyamaca College an award as a Top Commercial Recycler for 2007. The college recycled 335 tons of material in 2006, a 73 percent recycling rate.

Staff Notes

Grossmont College welcomes new classified employees **Stephanie Butticci**, Dance Operations Facilitator; **Alexis Popko**, Foundation Office Coordinator; and **Regan Tu**, Printing Operations Technician Senior.

Congratulations on their new assignments to **Crystal Nguyen**, Printing Operations Technician Senior; and **Barbara Rogerio**, Financial Aid Advisor, at Grossmont College, and **Vanessa Saenz**, Admission & Records Specialist-International Students, Cuyamaca College.

Welcome to Grossmont College's new academic employees **Sky Chafin Arenz** and **Amy Ramos**, Psychology; **Andrew Biondo**, Cardiovascular Technology; **Sonia Ghattas-Soliman**, Arabic; **Jamie Ivers**, Exercise Science; **Perla Lopez**, EOPS Counselor; **Stephanie Plante**, Astronomy/Physics; **Scott Therkalsen**, Geography; and **Diana Vance**, Chemistry.

Cuyamaca College welcomes new academic employees **Cyrus Saghafi**, CADD Technology, and **Glenn Thurman**, Astronomy/Physics.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Lewis**, Interim Director, Division III, Cuyamaca College, on her new assignment.

Calendar of Events



Tuesday, July 10, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Grossmont College Campus Meet and Greet President Sunita V. Cooke, Grossmont College Conference Room

Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 17, 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.