



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Courier

Providing highlights of the Governing Board meetings for faculty and staff
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Week of March 19, 2007

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NEWS FROM THE MARCH 20 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Employees testify, Board decides, Closed Session reports a failed motion

Dee Murdock, CSEA representative, presented CSEA resolutions of no confidence in Chancellor **Omero Suarez** and Vice Chancellor **Ben Lastimado** saying the resolutions “were based on facts.”

Zoe Close, United Faculty, and **Brad Tiffany**, Administrators Association, presented declarations opposing Vice Chancellor **Lastimado**.

Nancy Asbury, Cuyamaca College Administrative Secretary, said that when considering all classified employees, fewer than 25 percent voted for the resolutions.

Also speaking in opposition to the resolutions and declarations and urging board members to support Chancellor **Suarez** and Vice Chancellor **Lastimado** were **Mary Herman** and **Sandy Beasley**, past CSEA presidents; **Martin DuBord**, former CSEA job steward; **Dave McDade**, CSEA job steward; **Amber Green**, District Director of Employment Services; and **Crystal Sudano**, Grossmont College student.

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Shortly after 11 p.m., after reconvening to continue closed session deliberations, Governing Board President **Rick Alexander** reported that, in closed session, on a motion to discipline the chancellor, the vote was 1 to 4. Trustee

New Cuyamaca faculty member welcomed



Cuyamaca Vice President of Student Development and Services Joseph Marron introduced newly hired Counselor Greg Gomez. “It’s an honor to be a part of a districtwide faculty so smart, so committed to providing good service,” said Gomez. From L to R: Cuyamaca President Geraldine Perri, Governing Board President Rick Alexander, Greg Gomez, and Dr. Joseph Marron.

Photo by Frank Laveaga

Timothy Caruthers voted in favor; Trustees **Rick Alexander**, **Greg Barr**, **Bill Garrett**, and **Deanna Weeks** opposed. The motion failed.

Contracts process discussed

District counsel **Tim Garfield** reviewed a proposed process for approving cabinet level contracts, saying two issues needed to be addressed: ratification of contracts by the governing board in open session, and documentation of the contracts,

insuring that the board has actual contract language when voting.

Garfield worked with Vice Chancellor-Human Resources and Labor Relations **Ben Lastimado** to create a flow chart “which should insure every legal provision and full public disclosure are achieved.” **Garfield** said his firm has prepared a contract form that is usable for all district administrators and more suitable than what the district has been using. Trustees **Greg Barr** and **Bill Garrett** asked that each proposed contract be reviewed by an attorney.

Board policy checked again

Trustee **Bill Garrett** asked for the revised Board Membership policy to be tabled pending clarification of the legal basis for restricting student trustees from district employment. The board tabled the policy. All other new and revised policies were unanimously approved.

Student donations examined

Trustee **Greg Barr** asked why students were purchasing items for the district through ASGC grants. Interim Grossmont College President **Dean Colli** said there are times when resources fall short and ASGC responds to proposals to provide funding, but basic program equipment needs are met. **Barr** said he felt funds should be allocated through the college foundations.

Speaker **Crystal Sudano** reported

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.

that ASGC gets money from bookstore sales and is required to donate back to the college.

Funding review requested

Speaker **Crystal Sudano** asked for investigation of funds to purchase photography equipment when equipment for the student newspaper is so lacking and questioned the expenditures of the newspaper's advertising revenue. Grossmont College Interim President **Colli** said he is working with the department chair and dean to enhance the curriculum and technology support for the course that encompasses production of *The Summit*.

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** asked that the concerns be heard and consideration be given to doing some things differently to support the student newspaper.



Reports to the Board

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Pat Ardilla** reported on successful events for Women's History Month and thanked Vice President, Administrative Services **Arleen Satele** for her quick response to student safety issues.

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** called attention to a recent article featuring an entrepreneur whose certificate in culinary arts from Grossmont College propelled her into a successful business.

Trustee **Bill Garrett** reported that he received legal counsel concerning allegations of a conflict of interest with his serving on the board of the East County Economic Development Council and was advised that there is no conflict in being a member of both boards.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Cathy Keyes** thanked the many sponsors of campus events.

Vice Chancellor Human Resources and Labor Relations **Ben Lastimado** told the governing board that he is being opposed because union representatives "have found they cannot bully me . . . nor can they cause me to exceed authority delegated to me by the board."

Beth Smith, Grossmont College Academic Senate president, said Senate members are working hard on accreditation. **Smith** asked the governing board to issue a statement of support that would appear in the board meeting minutes.

Jan Ford, Cuyamaca College Academic Senate president, thanked

Board President **Rick Alexander** for attending a Senate meeting, and invited other trustees to do so. At their next meeting the Senate will take a first look at the curriculum package coming in.

Zoe Close, United Faculty president, provided a document ranking salaries for California Community College faculty. **Close** commented that faculty working conditions are good and the United Faculty contract is "the envy of many other colleges in this state." **Close** criticized Vice Chancellor **Lastimado's** answers at a PERB hearing.



Grossmont College Report

- Interim Grossmont College President **Dean Colli** congratulated **Dr. Janet Castanos**, Dean of Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences; **Dr. Sue Gonda**, Associate Professor of History; and **Vicki Whitmire**, Grossmont Foundation Board member, who were honored at the 2007 "Making a Difference for Women" event by Soroptimist International of La Mesa.
- Grossmont College student **Fernan Balsalubre** earned third place in the Community College Division Sweepstakes for the District Forensics Team at the American Forensics Association's California District Tournament.
- Grossmont College welcomed nine teachers-in-training from two colleges in Mexico. They are enrolled in ESL classes and peer-teaching in area middle schools.



Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine M. Perri** congratulated Financial Aid Advisor **Kari Crawford** for receiving the California Community College Classified Senate's southern region Classified Leadership Institute scholarship, given to classified employees with strong leadership skills.
- **Dr. Perri** announced that Cuyamaca College was cited as one of the Top Ten notable examples of student success programs at the annual "First Year Experience" conference in Dallas, Texas.
- Cuyamaca College has tripled its recycling rate to 88 percent from just 27 percent in 2001. The college annually diverts 1,500 tons of recycling materials, up from 700 tons in 2001-2003.

Staff Notes

Cuyamaca College welcomes new classified employees **DeMarquet Davis**, Computer Lab Assistant; and **Christine Slagle**, Clerical Assistant, Senior.

Welcome to new District employees **Amy Stogsdill**, Payroll Specialist; and **Melody Wells**, Purchasing Assistant.

Welcome to new academic employees **Roxane BenVau**, Media Librarian, Grossmont College; and **Kenneth Gonzalez**, Interim Associate Dean, Special Funded Programs (EOPS), Cuyamaca College.

Congratulations to **Awaz Abbas**, Child Development Center Aide at Grossmont College; **Rosa Buss**, Public Safety Operations Assistant, District, and **Kim Widdes**, Interim Human Resources & Labor Relations Specialist, District, on their new assignments.

Calendar of Events



Sunday, March 25, 1 p.m. Second Annual Grossmont College Fine Arts Affaire, Hyde Gallery and Building 200 Quad, Grossmont College.

Sunday, March 25, 3 p.m. "Death and Transfiguration," Grossmont Symphony Orchestra, Master Chorale with the Helix Charter High School Advanced Choir, St. Paul's Cathedral.

Monday, April 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Health & Wellness Fair, Grand Lawn, Cuyamaca College

Thursday, April 19, 10 a.m. Grand Opening, Science & Technology Center, Cuyamaca College

Thursday, April 19, 6 – 9 p.m. Community Open House, Science & Technology Center, Cuyamaca College

Next Meeting

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

Rick Walker discussed his dismissal from district employment in December 2005.