



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# The Courier

Providing highlights of the Governing Board meetings for faculty and staff  
For more information on Courier items, contact the District Public Information Office at x7573.

Week of November 12, 2007

Volume 15, Number 11

## NEWS FROM THE NOVEMBER 13 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

### From Closed Session

The governing board voted to authorize settlement in *County of San Diego v. GCCCD* by a payment to the County of \$858,078 for mitigation of traffic impacts from the expansion of Cuyamaca College. Trustees **Deanna Weeks, Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, and Rick Alexander** voted in favor. Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** abstained. Board President **Alexander** said, "Since the County originally asked for \$8 to \$20 million, an \$800,000 agreement is pretty nice. Our folks worked hard to get it."

### What a week it was

The GCCCD family met the challenges presented by the October wildfires.

In a presentation to the board summarizing "The Week That Was," Board President **Rick Alexander** reviewed the successful and safe evacuations during the fires, the incredible accomplishment of completing accreditation site visits, the opening and operation of the Local Assistance Center and visits by the San Diego Chargers and Governor Schwarzenegger. **Alexander** said the district fire assistance fund has been reactivated and a task force will begin work on raising money and providing assistance.

Referencing the more than 160 people who contributed to these efforts, **Alexander** said, "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your help."

### Accreditation visits

Despite the wildfires that raged through the county, accreditation site visits took place October 22-26. Chancellor **Omero Suarez** said concerns were expressed about the timing, but the accreditation teams were instructed by the accrediting commission to move forward. "Activities didn't have the full participation we wanted, and we will register our concerns for the record," said **Suarez**.

Grossmont College President **Sunny Cooke** and, on behalf of Cuyamaca College President **Gerri Perri**, Cuyamaca College Vice President **Cristina Chiriboga** reviewed the Accrediting Teams' respective commendations and recommendations noting that they are preliminary.

Both colleges expect favorable reports to be issued in January 2008.

### Smoking survey completed

Chancellor **Suarez** and Director of Risk Management **Bob Eygenhuysen** reported that a smoking survey requesting feedback on the district's current smoking policy has been conducted, 2800 responses had been received as of Monday, and final results are being compiled. Results will be discussed at the December board meeting. Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** expressed concern about the

delay in getting a progress report since it was due October or November. Board President **Rick Alexander** asked that results be tallied separately for students, faculty, and staff.

### Public Records Act report

District Counsel **Tim Garfield** presented a report on the provisions of the Public Records Act as it affects the district. In general, records are meant to be disclosed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so. Documents that may be exempt include legal and personnel matters and discussions between elected officials and constituents.

Board members discussed appropriate and reasonable fees the district may charge for producing public records upon a request, and the length of time the district may legally have to respond to requests.

### Zach's Resolution supported

Trustees voted unanimously to support "Zach's Resolution," which encourages the return of driver education classes and behind-the-wheel training to California public high schools. Trustee **Greg Barr** noted that the Grossmont Union High School District has also passed this resolution. The resolution was amended to reflect support of the high school district's action. Student

#### 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.

Trustees **Causton** and **Bernier-Sudano** cast advisory votes in favor.

## Field improvements ahead

A survey and grading plan to improve the playing surface of the Grossmont College football field was unanimously approved. Team quarterback **Dan Lewis** said the uneven surface is hard on the players, and urged support of the expenditure.

## Prop. R plan updated

The revised Prop. R Funding Plan was approved 5-0. It reflects actual project costs, updated budget projections and estimates, and other changes in conditions. The revision reflects input from the August 2007 board workshop on Prop. R. A variety of options were considered in an attempt to most effectively use bond proceeds.



## Reports to the Board

Trustee **Greg Barr** expressed concerns about miscommunication “flowing in both directions” regarding salary negotiations.

Governing Board Member **Deanna Weeks** complimented everyone who worked on the Grossmont College Walk of Fame fundraising gala. She said Supervisor **Dianne Jacob** was delighted with the Local Assistance Center at Cuyamaca.

Trustee **Bill Garrett** met with Trustee **Barr** and Student Trustees **Causton** and **Bernier-Sudano** to discuss student trustee employment policy, and also met to discuss textbook issues.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Audrey Causton** reported on campus events including fundraisers for breast cancer research and fundraising for wildfire victims.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** reported on her attendance at the fall assembly for California community college students.

Grossmont College Academic Senate President **Chris Hill** attended the statewide Academic Senate plenary meetings. Topics included Title V revisions, the Basic Skills Initiative, and textbook solutions. The Basic Skills Assessment

gets under way with a retreat on Nov. 16.

Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President **Jan Ford** said the Basic Skills Initiative Committee is off to a good start. Professional Development Week in January will be devoted to Student Learning Outcomes.

Classified Senate representative **Alan Ridley** commended Cuyamaca College’s classified staff and administrators for the response to the fires.

United Faculty President **Zoe Close** said she was truly grateful for the larger meeting venue. **Close** distributed documents to the board with salary data from other California community college districts.

CSEA President **Jan Recktenwald** said the chapter is working on a resolution in support of Prop. 92. She expressed CSEA’s concerns over recruitment and retention of public safety officers.



## Grossmont College Report

- Grossmont College President **Sunita V. Cooke** said the tight and dedicated Grossmont family met every fire and accreditation challenge with a ‘can-do and “did-do” spirit.
- The Grossmont College Foundation Gala was reported as a tremendous success with credit given to many, particularly Executive Director **Ernie Ewin**, and financial results at almost 50 percent higher than 2006, netting \$74,000.
- **Cheryl Hinton**, Cross-Cultural Studies instructor, was announced by Dr. **Cooke** as the recipient of the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award for Arts and Culture; and **Ruth Fatima Konopka**, Language instructor, Spanish course was named one of the 25 best World Language Courses by the Educational Policy Improvement Center.



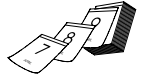
## Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College Vice President Instruction **Cristina Chiriboga** announced that President **Geraldine Perri** was nominated for a 2007 “Women Who Mean Business Award” sponsored

by the *San Diego Business Journal*.

- The 23rd annual High School Counselors Luncheon brought 50 counselors to campus for the first major event in the Student Center.
- The accreditation site visit was reviewed, including draft commendations referring to college leadership and planning.

## Calendar of Events



*Friday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m.* Welcome Back Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony, Student Center, Grossmont College

*Thursday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.* Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony, Student Center, Grossmont College

*Friday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.* Corrections Academy Graduation, Student Center, Grossmont College

## Next Meeting

The Governing Board’s next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11, 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 Comment

**Dan Lewis**, Grossmont College Associated Students representative, reported on campus activities.

**Alan Ridley**, Cuyamaca College Student Services Specialist, shared information about global sustainability.

**Denise Robertson**, ASL interpreter, asked trustees to support paying interpreters for the week during the wildfires.

**Sean Bentz**, Grossmont College graduate, discussed campus smoking concerns.

Several speakers urged the board to negotiate with faculty representatives on salary issues, including **Michael Wangler**, Cuyamaca College Science instructor; **Mike Qualls**, Grossmont College CSIS instructor; **Pat Garrity**, Cuyamaca College Automotive Technology instructor; **Greg Gomez**, Cuyamaca College counselor; and **George Gastil**, adjunct History instructor.

# Happy Thanksgiving to All!