



Week of October 15, 2007

Volume 15, Number 10

NEWS FROM THE OCTOBER 16 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Cuyamaca Student Center opening inspires all

Words used to describe the Cuyamaca College Student Center opening on October 11 included “amazing,” “inspiring,” “electrifying” and “spectacular.” Attendees, including board members **Deanna Weeks**, **Greg Barr**, **Rick Alexander**, and student trustees **Audrey Causton** and **Crystal Bernier-Sudano**, commented on the tremendous energy in the building and the whirlwind of activity as students flooded into the space. “The building is doing what it was designed to do,” said **Weeks Barr** commended those who have worked on this for so long.

Customer service questioned

Following a report by **Matt Schafer** of Benefit and Risk Management Services, the district’s third party benefits administrator, Board President **Alexander**, expressed strong disappointment based on his personal experience. He questioned the statistics quoted for processing.

Trustee **Bill Garrett** noted a different, more positive experience. Trustee **Timothy L. Caruthers** said, “If customer service is your goal, it needs more work.” **Schafer** said there were “no excuses made.”

Schafer reported that BRMS processes 24,000 claims per year,

receives 12,500 calls, and is working to keep rising health care costs down.

Repeat winner receives award

Val Aubol, Cuyamaca College admissions and records specialist, received the Chancellor/Classified Senate Award. **Aubol** was one of the first winners of the award in 1996. Chancellor **Omero Suarez** called **Aubol** “very dedicated, committed to helping students” and “a valuable resource over the years.” **Beth Appenzeller**, dean of admissions & records, said **Aubol** “...goes above and beyond...in one of the most challenging jobs on either campus.” Chancellor **Suarez** and Classified Senate representative **Dave McDade** presented **Aubol** with a trophy and gift certificate.



Campus construction report

Gafcon Project Manager **Joe Minner** provided the quarterly report, focusing on construction activity and highlighting: the Cuyamaca College Student Center and Communication Arts buildings and the Grossmont College Exercise Science/Wellness Building remodel and Parking Structure.

Minner also reported on the safety record and contractor outreach to encourage more bidding. The district saves money when more bids are received.

A message from Chancellor Omero Suarez

As our district family moves ahead in the wake of the wildfires, the Governing Board and I want to express our deep concerns for all those affected by the fires and sincere appreciation to those who have provided, and continue to provide, essential services.

Please notify Bob Eygenhuysen with information about students, staff or faculty dealing with the aftermath and in need of assistance so that the Fire Assistance Fund Committee can begin to help.

Board Policies adopted

Governing Board members approved revisions to Board Policies 3250 (Institutional Planning), 6550 (Disposal of Property), and 7600 (Public Safety Department).

Prop. 92 supported

Trustees voted unanimously to support a resolution in support of the Community College Initiative (Proposition 92) on the February 5, 2008, ballot. The initiative would secure local governance, provide funding for enrollment growth and stabilize student fees. United Faculty President **Zoe Close** said UF is strongly in support.

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.

Representation discussed

Trustees discussed the district's contract for legal services with Stutz, Artiano, Shinoff and Holtz. Trustee **Caruthers** said the district needs to look for a replacement. Trustee **Garrett** said the board should select the provider instead of using a ratification process. Chancellor **Suarez** said the district's legal firm "has served us exceedingly well" and that he would provide the board a report on their service.

Board members **Garrett** and **Weeks** agreed to serve on a committee to work with the chancellor to examine the district's legal services process. The contract was ratified with a 4-1 vote, Trustee **Caruthers** opposed.

Food service expansion

The governing board awarded campus food service operations to Sodexo Campus Services. Expanded hours for food service including nights, summer sessions, and night summer sessions will be discussed.

Reports to the Board

Trustee **Bill Garrett** complimented Grossmont College on its performance of the stage play "Rumors."

Trustee **Greg Barr** urged board members to support returning driver education training to California high schools.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Audrey Causton** reported on campus events including the Student Center grand opening and College Hour on Chaldean traditions.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** said she looks forward to working with Trustee **Garrett** on solutions to the cost of textbooks, and has been working on campus smoking issues.

Board President **Rick Alexander** represented the district at the annual Alpine Chamber of Commerce event with East County elected officials.

Grossmont College Academic Senate President **Chris Hill** said Academic Senates around the state will be gathering to discuss the latest issues impacting them.

Cuyamaca College Academic Senate representative **Michael Wangler** said

faculty are preparing for the upcoming accreditation site visit.

Classified Senate representative **Dave McDade** thanked board members who attended the group's planning session.

United Faculty President **Zoe Close** expressed concerns about the revised confidentiality statement district personnel are asked to sign when sitting on search committees.

Ben Lastimado, Vice Chancellor-Human Resources & Administrative Services, discussed how COLA increases are applied across step and column categories. **Lastimado** also reported that an arbitrator ruled in favor of the district in a dispute over a CSEA grievance regarding pay increases.

Sue Rearic, Interim Vice Chancellor-Business Services, said many people work behind the scenes in accounting, purchasing, and cash management on projects such as the Cuyamaca Student Center and some were able to attend and enjoy the grand opening. She also reported that she is working to resolve questions from Student Trustee **Bernier-Sudano** regarding a vendor contract.

Associate Vice Chancellor **Dana Quittner** told the board the district's legislative program is circulating for comment.



Grossmont College Report

- Grossmont College President **Sunita V. Cooke** thanked the entire campus community for helping prepare for the upcoming accreditation site visit.
- **Dr. Cooke** reported the college is working hard to mitigate the loss of parking due to the construction of the Parking Structure in Lot 5.
- More than 45 colleges and universities were represented at the College Transfer Day and over 100 exhibitors took part in the Career Expo.



Cuyamaca College Update

Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine Perri** said she's looking forward to great campuswide participation in the upcoming accreditation site visit.

The college received a grant for \$486,729 to provide education and

training for the water distribution industry including waste water management.

Dr. Perri said the college was well represented at the annual El Cajon Fire Expo. ENVT students provided fire safety information to 200 children and parents.

Staff Notes

Grossmont College welcomes new classified employees **Carrie Ottalagano**, Office Assistant II; **Veronica Romero-Murrillo**, Student Services Assistant, Senior; and **Aimee Tomasello**, Child Development Center Aide.

Cuyamaca College welcomes new classified employee **Jennifer Abel**, High School and Community Relations Coordinator.

Congratulations to **Tasa Campos**, Administrative Secretary, Grossmont College, on her new assignment. Congratulations to **Beth Viersen**, Disabled Student Programs and Services Specialist, Cuyamaca College, on her new position.

Calendar of Events



Wednesday, Oct. 31, Noon
Annual Wheelchair Basketball Game,
Cuyamaca College Gym

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 1-3 p.m.
EOPS/CalWORKs Open House,
Grossmont College

Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at the Cuyamaca College Student Center. The open session will begin at 6:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Theresa Crume, Grossmont College chemistry technician, asked about the four percent increase for CSEA members.

Sean Bentz, Grossmont College graduate, addressed smoking concerns.

Wendy Hudson, Grossmont College Associated Students president, reported on the numerous upcoming campus events sponsored by ASGC.