



Week of September 17, 2007

Volume 15, Number 9

NEWS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 18 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

District budget approved

Governing board members unanimously approved the district's 2007-2008 Adoption Budget, totaling just over \$298 million. Board President **Rick Alexander** commended everyone involved in the construction of the budget, saying that he was pleased the district would be able to hire more full-time faculty.

The budget funds new programs and services as well as increases in faculty and staff.

CSEA agreement supported

Trustees ratified the 2006-2007 agreement between the district and the California School Employees Association, Chapter 707. Trustee **Dr. Timothy L. Caruthers** commended Vice Chancellor-Human Resources **Ben Lastimado** and Interim Vice Chancellor-Business Services **Sue Rearic** for their work on the agreement.

Student trustee employment reviewed

Two items placed on the agenda by former student trustee **Rick Walker** in accordance with state law were discussed. The first concerned employment. The second concerned a Public Information Act request.

District Counsel **Jack Sleeth, Jr.**, commenting on the legality of student

Cuyamaca College faculty welcomed



Cuyamaca College Vice President of Instruction Cristina Chiriboga and Academic Senate President Jan Ford introduced four new full-time faculty to the governing board. Pictured above, left to right, are Chancellor Omero Suarez; Governing Board President Rick Alexander; Dr. Chiriboga; Cyrus Saghafi, CADD; Jan Ford; and Christopher O'Byrne, Accounting. Unable to attend and not pictured were Marie Ramos, Art, and Glenn Thurman, Physics and Astronomy.

trustee employment within the district told trustees he did not agree with the recent State Attorney General's opinion on this issue. He said the AG's opinion was not legally binding but is given "considerable" or "substantial" weight. **Sleeth** said the ultimate decision rests with a majority of justices of the State Supreme Court, and perhaps higher courts.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** and Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Audrey Causton** said that both Associated Students' policies prohibit a student from holding office while employed by the district. Trustees **Bill Garrett**, **Greg Barr** and **Causton** expressed interest in forming a committee and working with the

Intergovernmental Office to consider legislation to clarify the situation. It was informally agreed to pursue this. Trustees **Deanna Weeks** and **Rick Alexander** expressed the importance of including student leaders and student input.

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Walker questioned the district's responsiveness regarding a Public Records Act request for e-mail files.

Counsel **Jack Sleeth, Jr.**, told governing board members much of the delay was caused by objections of the attorney representing the employee whose files were being sought. **Sleeth** said there was also a question about the privacy rights of the employee. Trustees **Caruthers** and **Alexander**, and 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.

Trustee **Bernier-Sudano** questioned the length of time it took for the district to respond, and asked for a report on the process governing the district's response to Public Record Act requests. Chancellor **Suarez** outlined the process explaining that all Public Records Act requests are received in the Chancellor's Office for processing.

Law firm contract tabled

A vote to ratify approval of the district's contract with the law firm Stutz, Artiano, Shinoff and Holtz for ongoing legal service was tabled. Trustee **Bill Garrett** said it was not clear to him whether this was a personnel item to be discussed in closed session. "If it's allowed to be in a personnel session, I would like it to be in closed session next month," he said. Trustee **Caruthers** questioned the budgeted amount. Vice Chancellor **Sue Rearic** said if the district comes close to exceeding the initial estimate, any contract increase would come to the board for a decision.



Reports to the Board

Trustee **Greg Barr** said he appreciated the recent report on compensation increases over the last three years, and thanked Grossmont College President **Sunny Cooke** for meeting with him. **Barr** asked for a report on the analysis of the Grossmont counseling department at next month's board meeting.

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** thanked "everyone who's had anything to do with the wonderful gains in enrollment... counselors who encourage students to take more classes, ... faculty who went out of their way to help new students ... staff and administrators."

Board Member **Bill Garrett** thanked Vice Chancellor **Rearic** and the college presidents for their frank discussion during the recent budget workshop. **Garrett** confirmed he would donate his salary increase of about \$20 a month to support scholarships.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** praised the first issue of the Grossmont College student newspaper, and said the Associated Students has been busy holding many activities on campus.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Audrey Causton** reported that the first

College Hour on campus was a big success, and the next one on Chaldean culture is scheduled for October 9.

Associate Vice Chancellor **Dana Quittner** said President Bush has not yet signed legislation that allows students with Pell Grants to receive more money, but is expected to do so. She said the Governor has until October 14 to sign bills.

Bob Eygenhuysen, Director of Risk Management, reported that a recent change in insurance companies spurred a best practices audit on loss prevention of all the district's buildings, at the expense of the insurance company. So far, the district has received nearly 1,000 pages of suggestions.

Zoe Close, United Faculty president, told the board that as part of the formal process of impasse, United Faculty and the district have entered into a mediation phase. **Close** said United Faculty has entered into the process "in good faith with a positive attitude," and hopes the process will result in a fruitful solution.



Grossmont College Report

- Grossmont College President **Sunita V. Cooke** announced that enrollment is up over five percent.
- Thirty students received a total of \$16,000 in scholarships at the recent fall scholarship breakfast.
- **Dr. Cooke** gave a fall sports report, with positive assessments for football, women's soccer, and men's and women's water polo.
- The Grossmont College Foundation has established the Albert & June Van Zanten Memorial Scholarship. **Dr. Cooke** explained the scholarship will benefit former foster youth.



Cuyamaca College Update

- Cuyamaca College Vice President of Instruction **Cristina Chiriboga** reported that President **Geraldine Perri** was absent due to her participation in the CEO Leadership Institute sponsored by the Community College League of California.
- **Dr. Chiriboga** thanked trustees for acknowledging Cuyamaca's "banner year" in enrollment – 917 new students, and units taken by continuing students have risen 10 percent. The college

celebrated with an ice cream social.

- Cuyamaca was well represented at the Second Annual Fire Expo on September 8 sponsored by the San Miguel Fire Protection District.
- **Dr. Chiriboga** reported on several tapped for statewide service, including **Sheryl Eaves**, CalWORKs specialist, and **Tony Zambelli**, Economics faculty.

Staff Notes

Grossmont College welcomes new classified employee **Christina Risch**, Child Development Center Aide; and congratulates **Judith Canedy**, Child Development Center Assistant, Sr., on her new assignment.

Cuyamaca College welcomes new classified employee **Henry Guzman**, Custodian.

The District welcomes new employees **Sarah Donnelly**, Research Analyst, and **Patricia Long**, Payroll Specialist.

Congratulations to **Connie Elder**, Interim Dean, Learning & Technology Resources, Cuyamaca College, on her new assignment.

Calendar of Events



Thursday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. A Celebration of Banned Books, Griffin Gate, Grossmont College

Friday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m. Kickoff for "Extreme Makeover," Exercise Science and Wellness Center, Grossmont College

Thursday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m. Grand Opening, Student Center, Cuyamaca College

Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 16, 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

Zoe Close, United Faculty president, said in accordance with Subsection A of Section 3547 of the Education Employment Relations Act, United Faculty brings forward a formal notice to negotiate salaries for 2007-2008.