



Week of April 14, 2008

Volume 16, Number 4

NEWS FROM THE APRIL 15 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Wildfire wages approved

Governing board members approved payment of wages to hourly employees for work missed when the district was closed due to wildfires October 22-27, 2007, by a vote of **Barr, Garrett** and **Weeks** in favor; **Alexander** abstaining, **Caruthers** opposed. **Bernier-Sudano** cast an advisory vote in support.

Trustee **Greg Barr** said, "It seems to me many people were affected by the fires. It is a morale issue, a culture of supporting all employees."

Vice Chancellor-Business Services **Sue Rearic** said the total cost to compensate the 650 hourly employees eligible for payment is approximately \$100,000. Grossmont Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** requested that student workers be included where legally possible.

Search process approved

Trustees unanimously approved the search process, timeline, and composition of the search committee for a new chancellor, with a goal of having the new chancellor in place by January 28, 2009.

COLA increase passes

A cost of living increase of three percent for confidential support staff and managers was approved by a vote of 3-2 with **Alexander, Caruthers** and **Weeks** voting yes, **Barr** and **Garrett** voting no,

and **Bernier-Sudano** casting an advisory vote of no. **Barr** said staff deserves the increase but ongoing negotiations with other groups should be concluded first.

Budget clarification requested

After concerns were expressed by speaker **Dave McDade** about budget transfers in the past month that reduce the classified salary line item, board members asked for further clarification about budget transfers at the May meeting. The budget transfers were approved on a 5-0 vote.

Legal services questioned

Governing board member **Greg Barr** expressed concern about an increase in the budget to pay Stutz Artiano Shinoff and Holtz for legal services. Vice Chancellor **Ben Lastimado** said he believed fees paid to the firm were reasonable compared to other firms, and that the firm "is always concerned about costs." **Alexander** said the district keeps its costs well in check and its win record is "quite nice." **Caruthers** asked staff to provide board members with an ongoing year to date accounting so they are better informed. The increase was approved on a 4-1 vote (**Barr** opposed).

CCCT slate selected

Trustees voted unanimously for Nancy Chadwick, Palomar CCD, Isabel Barreras, State Center CCD, Carolyn

Batiste, MiraCosta CCD, and (at the request of Student Trustee **Bernier-Sudano**) Edward Ortell, Citrus CCD, candidates for the California Community College Trustees Board.

A timely thanks

Commenting on the organization's donation to the district to cover costs of the district's academic year wall calendars, Trustee **Rick Alexander** thanked the Grossmont Schools Federal Credit Union for its ongoing support.

Need for new position questioned

Trustee **Rick Alexander** asked whether a new Admissions & Records Office supervisor position at Cuyamaca College was necessary, based on advancements in electronic registration. Chancellor **Suarez** and Cuyamaca College President **Geraldine Perri** said the position handles a large scope of responsibility. Grossmont College President **Sunny Cooke** gave examples of the diverse responsibilities handled in this office, including attendance, grades, transcripts, discipline, and petitions. Responding to **Alexander's** request for a report to the board on unifying the admissions process, Chancellor **Suarez** said the area can be explored for additional alignment. The item approving the position passed 5-0.

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.

Gafcon Report

Jim Davies of Gafcon reported significant progress in projects on both campuses, including the extensive renovation of the Grossmont College Exercise Science/Wellness Complex which is well under way. Renderings of the new Cuyamaca College Business/CIS Building and Grossmont College Health/Physical Sciences Building were displayed.

Davies told the governing board that the Contractor Outreach Prequalification Process has been successful, with six qualified bidders identified for the Grossmont College Parking Structure.

Reports to the Board

Trustee **Barr** requested that closed session agenda descriptions provide more clarity about discussion items. Trustee **Caruthers** said these items are also for privacy protection. Board president **Garrett** asked Chancellor **Suarez** to check with district counsel on this matter.

Board member **Alexander** attended the Community College League of California Advisory Committee on Legislation meeting. He noted that having the district's legislative program is useful when he reviews bills "so I bring perspective."

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** congratulated everyone involved in the Project Success program. **Weeks** attended the graduation lunch, calling it "inspirational," especially testimony from the students in the program.

Student Trustee **Crystal Bernier-Sudano** said she is seeking clarity on the student trustee role and attendance at statewide meetings. Board President **Garrett** asked how funding is allocated for student trustee travel. Trustees **Caruthers** and **Garrett** asked the chancellor to research the situation and provide clarification.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Audrey Causton** reported excellent turnout at the recent Health Fair, and led attendees in singing "Happy Birthday" to Trustee **Rick Alexander**.

Governing Board President **Garrett** said the Project Success lunch made him recognize why it is such a great opportunity to be a trustee for the district.

Vice Chancellor **Lastimado** invited board members to attend an Administrative and Supervisory Leadership training on April 24 at the Cuyamaca College Digital Theatre. The Staff Diversity Committee

meets April 16 to review accreditation reports and address diversity issues.

Dave McDade, Classified Senate representative, said the Classified Senate has seats available for the San Diego Padres game on August 17.

Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President **Jan Ford** announced the new 2007-08 slate of officers: **Michael Wangler**, president; **Nancy Jennings**, vice president; officers at large **Cindy Morrin** and **Lauren Halstead**.

Ford announced a resolution approved by both Cuyamaca and Grossmont Academic Senates in March supporting the United Faculty call for Work to Contract. The Senates will not appoint faculty to sit on committees during work to contract and will honor faculty requests to temporarily stop committee service during work to contract.

Grossmont College Academic Senate President **Chris Hill** said members are attending the statewide Academic Senate plenary session through April 19.

Cuyamaca College Report

- President **Geraldine M. Perri** announced receipt of \$1.5 million in grants to help guide regional growth in career technical programs and to expand the vocational English at Work initiative.
- The new Communications Arts Theatre held its inaugural concert event on March 29, and hosted the Cuyamaca College Chorus and new Rock, Pop and Soul Ensemble on April 12.
- **Dr. Perri** congratulated the fifth graduating class of the Cuyamaca Prep Program for at risk high school students.

Grossmont College Report

- President **Sunita V. Cooke** reported that enrollment in the second eight-week Spring 2008 session is up 20 percent over Spring 2007.
- In conjunction with its 40th anniversary, the School of Nursing is hoping to contact some of its 4,000 previous graduates to invite them to an alumni reception scheduled on June 4.
- Grossmont College's Action Club, which provides peer support for disabled students, donated 142 stuffed animals to programs for children and seniors.

Staff Notes

Welcome to new classified employees **Jose Antonio Carmona**, Custodian, Grossmont College; **Boniface Jones**, Warehouse Assistant, District; **Stephanie Littlefield**, Child Development Center Aide, Cuyamaca College; **Dwight Robinson**, Personnel Assistant, District; and **Christine Yoshioka**, Clerical Assistant, District.

Welcome to new academic employees **Virginia Young**, Spanish Instructor, Grossmont College; and **Taylor Smith**, Music Instructor, Cuyamaca College.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 26, Spring Garden Festival, Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College

Friday, May 2, 6 p.m. Police Academy Graduation, Main Quad, Grossmont College

Friday, May 9, Noon Brad Daluiso Golf Classic, Sycuan Resort & Casino's Willow Glen Course

Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m. Student of Note Ceremony, Student Center, Grossmont College

Saturday, May 17, 5:30 p.m. "Passport to the Future" Cuyamaca College Foundation 30th Anniversary Celebration, Communications Arts Building

Next Meeting

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at the Student Center, Cuyamaca College. The open session will begin at 6:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Ryan Keith and **Anna-Joy Schnedoch**, Grossmont College students, spoke on the negative impact of the work to contract action on student clubs. Board President **Garrett** said the district is not keeping their club advisors from participating.

Wendy Hutson, ASGC president, reported on \$14,883 in donations made by ASGC to projects this semester.