



Week of August 18, 2008

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NEWS FROM THE AUGUST 19 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

“Students First” program

The beginning of the fall semester brings full implementation of Grossmont College’s “Students First” program to alleviate parking congestion for students while construction of a new parking structure is under way. Grossmont College President **Sunny Cooke** said, “there is a fair amount of anxiety,” but everyone is eager to make the program successful. “If we roll up our sleeves like we usually do, we will make it work.”

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Dan Lewis** said students are happy to hear that faculty and staff are putting the students first. “We are going to show them our appreciation,” **Lewis** said.

Classified Senate representative **Dave McDade** and CSEA President **Jan Recktenwald** expressed support on behalf of staff. **Recktenwald** said CSEA is ready and willing to work with President **Cooke** to make “Students First” a positive experience.

Response to Grand Jury Report approved

The governing board approved a response to the findings and recommendations of a May 22, 2008, Grand Jury report regarding the region’s community colleges. The vote was 4-1 (**Greg Barr** opposed).

Trustee **Barr** said he favors limits on governing board terms of office and campaign contributions, establishing an

ethics committee, and establishing policies to prevent the appearance of nepotism. He noted that the nepotism issue affects him and asked that staff revisit the issue for guidance.

Fact finding recommendation approved

Under California’s Educational Employment Relations Act, the district and United Faculty entered into fact finding concerning the 2006-07 and 2007-08 bargaining earlier this year. The fact-finder’s final recommendations were accepted by district and union representative on July 23. Trustees unanimously approved the recommendations.

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** commented that the district will abide by the findings, but that it will come at a cost. **Weeks** said she hoped everyone would join together, live up to the bargain, and work with the board to minimize any pain.

United Faculty President **Zoe Close** announced that faculty ratified the recommendation. **Close** thanked the board, saying, “The timely action will translate into positive relations in the future” and “will go a long way toward fostering cooperation as we move forward.” Grossmont College Academic Senate President **Chris Hill** and Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President **Michael Wangler** also thanked the governing board for bringing the United Faculty bargaining issue to resolution.

GC Student Services/ Student Center “moves ahead”

Sue Rearic, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, reported that the final project proposal for the Grossmont College Student Services/Student Center was back on the docket after almost five years. Among the many people she thanked, she said four deserved special recognition: **Dale Switzer**, Senior Director, Facilities Planning, Development and Maintenance; **Tim Flood**, Director, Campus Facilities and Operation; **Bill Magnuson**, of Architects Mosher Drew Watson Ferguson, and **Jim Davies**, Gafcon program manager.

Trustees approved the final project proposal and authorized funding of \$36.2 million for the remodel and expansion of the existing 100 Administration Building to a Student Services/Administration Building and a remodel and expansion of the existing Student Center.

Cuyamaca Business/CIS bids

Cuyamaca Business/CIS building items for bids and re-bids were unanimously approved. Governing Board member **Rick Alexander** asked that Gafcon and district staff improve outreach and assistance to contractors in order to insure that project bidding is responsive, noting that pulled and reissued bids are costing the district money.

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

Rick Alexander, Greg Barr, Timothy L. Caruthers, D.C., Bill Garrett, Deanna Weeks

STUDENT MEMBERS: Dan Lewis, Charles Taylor III

Chancellor: Omero Suarez, Ph.D. • Grossmont President: Sunita V. Cooke, Ph.D. • Cuyamaca Interim President: Cristina Chiriboga, Ed.D.

Reports to the Board

Trustee **Greg Barr** reported on his work with the district compensation comparisons subcommittee, saying that he and trustee **Rick Alexander** had made a lot of progress, but not turned up any significant findings yet. Trustee **Alexander** added that while salaries are low in many categories, he was surprised to find that entry-level instructors are paid more than their counterparts in the San Diego Community College District.

Barr also reported that the textbook committee is working hard to find alternatives to expensive textbook costs.

Alexander, who attended the Ford ASSET graduation at Cuyamaca College, expressed concerns over the low number of graduates due to a shortage of sponsorships by local auto dealers, demonstrating how the economy is directly affecting students. Trustee **Deanna Weeks** agreed. She added that the speaker was himself a graduate of the program and is now a highly placed executive with Ford.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Dan Lewis** said he and Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Chuck Taylor** attended the Community College League of California's helpful workshop for student trustees.

Student Trustee **Taylor** reported that students played a big role in Cuyamaca's fall outreach campaign.

Governing Board President **Bill Garrett** noted that the Ford ASSET graduates received a lot of support from family and friends and that they really appreciated it.

Chancellor **Omero Suarez** congratulated **President Sunny Cooke** and everyone at Grossmont College for being selected as the region's best college by readers of the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Vice Chancellor-Human Resources and Labor Relations **Ben Lastimado** said the Leadership Training and Development Committee provided a workshop for administrators on leadership style.

Sue Rearic, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, told the governing

board there is still no state budget, but that staff will still need to bring a budget to the board for action at the September meeting. On the budget topic, **Dana Quittner**, Associate Vice Chancellor, said there is "no foreseeable closure" on the budget, and that legislation the district supported on concurrent enrollment is being watered down.

Cuyamaca College Academic Senate President **Michael Wangler** welcomed new faculty to both campuses.

Classified Senate representative **Dave McDade** reported that **Maggie Gonzales** and **Shari Ball** have joined the Classified Senate Board.

CSEA President **Jan Recktenwald** announced that the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) has determined that CSEA is at impasse with the district, and that CSEA is looking forward to the assignment of a mediator. **Recktenwald** assured board members that the majority of CSEA members are "looking forward to coming to a positive solution before fact finding is needed."



Grossmont College Report

• President **Sunita V. Cooke** reported that enrollment figures should be up about 2-3 percent for Fall 2008 thanks to a lot of hard work on outreach.

• **Dr. Cooke** reported that Grossmont College's selection as "Best Local College" by the *San Diego Union-Tribune* is Grossmont's fourth win in the past six years.

• The Grossmont Healthcare District awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Cardiovascular Technology program to assist in recruiting and retaining faculty.

• Counseling Department has fully implemented a new student advising process that integrates counseling services, Web-based registration, and the Tech Mall's computer lab facilities.



Cuyamaca College Update

• Interim President **Cristina Chiriboga** announced that Cuyamaca is

enroute to an all-time record enrollment for Fall 2008. Headcount is up over 18 percent and units up over 21 percent from Fall 2007.

• **Dr. Chiriboga** said three Cuyamaca basketball players have received university scholarships for the upcoming basketball season.

• The summer "Kids to College" program was a great success, with 290 participants ages 8-17. Most classes were full and had a waiting list.

• A number of retreats and orientations have been conducted, including a panel discussing what it means to be a Cuyamaca College faculty member.

Staff Notes

Welcome to new classified employees **Jennine Boschock**, Payroll Technician, District; **Cynthia Bourget**, Instructional Media Services Coordinator, Cuyamaca College; and **Janet Carter**, Administrative Secretary; and **Melissa Mitcham**, Clerical Assistant, both at Grossmont College.

Welcome to new academic employees **Perla Lopez**, EOPS Counselor, Grossmont College; and **Daniel Sullivan**, Cardiovascular Technology Instructor, Grossmont College.

Calendar of Events



Tuesday, August 26, 4 p.m. Governing Board Annual Capital Construction Workshop, Griffin Gate, Grossmont College

Friday, September 12, 10 a.m. Health/Physical Sciences Complex Groundbreaking, Grossmont College

Saturday, September 13, 9:30 a.m. Fall Scholarship Awards Breakfast, Student Center, Grossmont College

Next Meeting

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