



Week of February 16, 2009

Volume 17, Number 2

## NEWS FROM THE FEBRUARY 17 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

### Farewell to Chancellor Suarez

Trustees, faculty, staff and student representatives bid farewell to Chancellor **Omero Suarez** at his last governing board meeting prior to his retirement as chancellor after 11 years with the district. Board President **Bill Garrett** presented Chancellor Suarez with a crystal trophy reading, "In appreciation for your many years of services, leadership, devotion to the district and accomplishments." He highlighted numerous accomplishments including the passage of Prop. R and achieving equalization. Trustee **Deanna Weeks** praised the improved alignment of courses within the district.

Trustee **Rick Alexander** said, "You've done wonderful things for this district. You should be extremely proud of your accomplishments." Other trustees agreed.

Academic Senate Presidents **Chris Hill** and **Michael Wangler** thanked Dr. Suarez "for all you have done" and wished him well.

Classified Senate President **Debi Miller** and the entire classified executive team presented Chancellor Suarez with a plaque on behalf of the classified staff noting his value to the district and his ongoing recognition of, and appreciation for, classified staff.

Chancellor Suarez offered a few observations, saying many valuable things were accomplished due to teamwork. "We can look back with a feeling of accomplishment. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do this," said Suarez.



*The Classified Senate Executive Board presents Chancellor Suarez with a proclamation: (L-R) Pat Murray, JacQueline Osborne, Chancellor Suarez, Paula Tillery, Maggie Gonzales and Debi Miller.*

### CSEA Agreement Ratified

The Governing Board ratified with a 5-0 vote the 2007-08 contract agreement with California School Employees Association, Chapter 707 as recommended by the chancellor.

**Jan Recktenwald**, CSEA president, thanked the board for ratifying the agreement. She said CSEA would begin 2008-09 contract talks later this week.

### County rep presentation

**Dan McAllister**, San Diego County

Treasurer-Tax Collector, reviewed his office's responsibilities and performance.

In response to board member questions, McAllister said issuing bonds is difficult in the current climate.

### Accountability reporting

**Bob Hertel**, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Districtwide Academic, Student, Planning and Research Services, presented the district's second annual Accountability Report as required by state law. The

goal is to quantify performance within the community college system.

Hertel said as the data collection methods are stabilized and made uniform, future reports should begin to yield valuable information.

### Job system goes online

**JacQueline Osborne**, senior personnel recruiter, presented the district's new online job application system. Called "PeopleAdmin," it allows job seekers to apply online, check the progress of their application, and

#### Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Governing Board Members:

Rick Alexander, Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, Mary Kay Rosinski, 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.

communicate with staff, saving many hours of processing time for staff. The new system makes its debut in March.

## From Closed Session

With a 5-0 vote the board approved non-renewal of a contract for an administrative employee and non-reemployment of a tenure track faculty member.

## Other Board Items

Governing board members agreed to hold their annual goal-setting meeting on March 31 at 1 p.m.

Trustees approved moving forward to establish a board policy on access to electronic and online textbooks.

Trustee **Alexander** thanked the Rice Family Foundation for its generous ongoing support of the Ornamental Horticulture program.

Board Member **Barr** said he was pleased to see fewer short-term hourly assignments, reflecting good planning by staff.

Sabbatical leave requests were approved for **Pat Bennett**, **Carlos Contreras**, and **Jeff Lehman** of Grossmont College; and **Lindy Brazil**, **Susan Haber**, and **Tammi Marshall** of Cuyamaca College.



## Reports to the Board

Trustee **Deanna Weeks** said attending the Presidential Inaugural was exciting and joyous.

Trustee **Greg Barr** asked about enforcement of the district's smoke-free policy. Grossmont College President **Sunny Cooke** and Cuyamaca College Interim President **Cristina Chiriboga** said it's going relatively smoothly. No one has been cited.

Trustee **Rick Alexander** reported on the legislative trip to Washington, D.C., including district meetings with congressional representatives Hunter and Davis. He requested a presentation on the Supporting Education and Economic Development (SEED) Committee at a future meeting.

Trustee **Mary Kay Rosinski** reported attending numerous events and participating in the Community College League of California's legislative conference in Sacramento. She thanked **Don Ridgway**, **Rick Kirby**, and **Andy**

**Biondo** for a tour of the Cardiovascular Technology Department.

Grossmont College Student Trustee **Dan Lewis** also traveled to Washington, D.C., representing students and said it was a great opportunity for advocacy.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Chuck Taylor** thanked **Bill Garrett**, **Bob Hertel**, **Scott Barr**, and members of the Textbook Task Force for their work to bring affordable textbooks to students.

Board President **Bill Garrett** commended both college presidents for outstanding Spring Convocations. Garrett thanked the student trustees for their response to the Textbook Task Force and expressed appreciation to the Academic Senates for agreeing to see what they can do to help. "We can have an impact on how much those books actually cost," said Garrett.

**Sue Rearic**, Vice Chancellor-Business Services, speaking about the state budget said one of the greatest challenges will be cash management due to the delay of state payments, forcing the district to borrow funds and incur interest expense.

**Dale Switzer**, Senior Director of Facilities Planning and Development, reviewed the Grossmont College Student Services/Student Center Renovation and Expansion Preliminary Plan Review. Responding to Trustee **Rosinski's** inquiry, Switzer said displaced activities and classes will move to modular space and vacated space in the 300 building.

**Dana Quittner**, Associate Vice Chancellor of Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development & Public Information, provided a wrap-up report on the Sacramento and Washington, D.C., legislative conferences and budget negotiations.



## Grossmont College Report

President **Sunita V. Cooke** announced that Grossmont's enrollment is at its highest in the college's 48-year history: 19,316 students.

**Dr. Cooke** provided an update on Accreditation. There are four areas requiring more work. A draft report will circulate in April.

The campus community extends condolences to AOJ instructor **James Zuffoletto**, whose son **Joseph** was killed in the recent plane crash in Buffalo.



## Cuyamaca College Update

Interim President **Cristina Chiriboga** reported a 13.3 percent increase in units and 10 percent in headcount, the highest in school history.

**Dr. Chiriboga** congratulated **Pat Setzer** and **Kelly Nielsen** for being honored as instructors of the year.

**Dr. Chiriboga** thanked all college staff who supported Cuyamaca playing host to the 2009 "State of the County Address."

## Staff Notes

Welcome to new classified employees **Maria Claustro** and **Laura Hernandez-Gutierrez**, Financial Aid Assistants, and **Kristine Johanns**, Dance Facilitator Operator, at Grossmont College; and **Joy Tapscott**, Secretary, at Cuyamaca College.

Congratulations to **Martin DuBord**, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator, District; **Nancy Asbury**, Administrative Secretary, **Olivia Krausie**, Admissions and Records Specialist, **Lucy Price**, Learning Assistance Center Specialist, and **Steven Baker**, Acting Dean, Communications and Fine Arts, all at Grossmont College, on their new assignments.

## Calendar of Events



*Tuesday, March 3, 4:30 p.m.* Retirement Celebration for Chancellor Omero Suarez, Sycuan Resort, Garden Room

*Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.* Senior High Math Field Day, Cuyamaca College

*Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21* Grossmont College Science Festival-Pathways to Tomorrow

## Public Comment

Grossmont College student **Crystal Sudano** expressed concerns about use of the student representation fee.

## Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 17, Governing Board's next regular meeting, Student Center, Cuyamaca College. Open session at 6:30 p.m., following closed session, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31, 1 p.m., Governing Board annual goal-setting meeting (location to be determined).