

President's Report to the Senate  
June 11, 2009

**CORE**

At the June 9 meeting the following items were discussed:

- Child Development Center's drywall is up and furniture has been ordered. Mike Bishop, the Project Manager (PM) still hopes for a completion by the end of August
- Humanities Modernization: Mike Bishop pulled the two projects that had been submitted to the Department of State Architects (DSA) because the college hasn't gotten a response from them in over six months and because he thinks it would be better to send a complete package, both outside and inside the building, for approval. The discussion in CORE centered on whether or not this project should be design/build or design/bid/build. In the meantime, the Steinberg group is working with Larry Heimgartner and Mark Wood on design.
- Workmen tried to "fix" the outer doors to SSA and NEA in these past two weeks but have not succeeded. The work is supposed to be inspected this coming Friday, but the handicap access button to SSA doesn't work at all, now and some people couldn't get through the doors Tuesday morning.
- The College is withholding \$400,000 from Mallcraft to cover the hold back list. This will not address all the problems; another \$1 million or so will also be needed from Measure J to finish these buildings.
- The new, smaller chiller will be ordered for the Central Plant as soon as the specifications are completed, probably next week.
- Bill Englert is working hard to remove all the "toxic waste" from the old Tech building so that it can be torn down. What to do with all the old "stuff" is a problem.
- Workers addressed the problem of floor vibrations in NEA 216-221 but no one knew if that work was successful. It will be checked.
- The Parking Structure design should be finished next week.
- Scoring for the new Science Center will take place on June 18. Three firms have submitted possible designs.
- Ann Tomlinson was going to check on whether or not the college needs to rent parking spaces from Recreation and Parks over the summer since the College's summer school has been canceled.
- The PM announced that the District has given the alternative energy contractors a deadline of December 31, 2009 to complete their projects.
- Drywall in the new PE building has been finished on both sides, and the building is ready for a tour.
- The fire lane north of the old PE Building will not be repaved until that building is torn down.
- The library design is out of DSA and is now awaiting approval in the State Chancellor's Office. As soon as that approval is given, the College can go out to bid on the project (about a month after in order to get the process ready). The question arose as to what to do about the \$14 million that the State has

granted for building but not released. The CORE decision is that we will move forward with the project nonetheless and take money from Measure J if need be.

- The two projectors in nursing still need to be installed.
- The College marquee design (big board) should be completed in a couple of weeks.
- The new price for the TV Studio has been reduced by \$300,000 but has not yet been accepted.
- The Old Administration Building needs one more programming meeting before moving into design work. And, Vice President Bobby McNeel wanted to know where the College is going to house the One Stop organization. CORE decided that the best answer is to use the Old Administration Building; they can occupy the part of the building others will eventually use while their portion is being renovated. One Stop says it needs to know by July 1.

### **EOPS/CARE GRADUATION DINNER**

Merci Yanez orchestrated a very successful dinner event at the Carson City Center for those students graduating under the EOPS and CARE programs. Several student speakers and one alumna spoke very movingly about their journeys, and all credited the Harbor program for helping them succeed. It was a moving evening, and we can all be proud of these students' accomplishments. One student is going to Berkeley, another to UCLA or USC, and many of them received financial awards for their work. Well done!

### **NURSING PINNING**

The expanded Nursing Program is graduating 63 students this year. At its celebration on Monday evening, held at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, the enthusiasm and positive energy were overwhelming. Congratulations to a fine looking group of new nurses.

### **SPEECH DEPARTMENT REQUEST**

Both Rod Oakes and I have recommended to the President that the Speech Department be moved to Humanities and Fine Arts. This was a difficult decision for everyone involved, including the Senate, and I want to thank everyone for acting on this matter in a professional manner.

Mark Wood reminded Division Chairs and Academic Affairs that the College agreed to look at all departments and division responsibilities as a whole so that we wouldn't continue to move departments around singularly. In the coming academic year, such a thorough review and discussion will be a priority for the Senate. With the budget constraints that we are facing, this will be especially meaningful.

### **SPECIAL UNION MEETING**

A long meeting to discuss the budget held on June 9. Carl Friedlander teleconferenced with Harbor College faculty and tried to answer as many questions as we had about budget cuts. The Chancellor, the Union, and a special task force are trying to find \$50 million in cuts for the coming fiscal year. Tentatively, here is what might occur if the cuts are about \$50 million:

- \$15-20 million will be taken from District Reserves
- \$6-12 million will be deferred payments into the GASPE fund (health care to PERS)

- \$71/2 million saved from summer session closure
- \$6 million from change in health care plans if approved by the faculty union
- several more million from canceling winter session (not yet done but probable)

If the cuts range from \$60 to \$90 million, other cuts will have to be found, but Carl said that the Union has no current plans to renegotiate faculty salaries. He also said the LACCD was in better shape than many other Districts because of its reserve fund. That may change if the situation worsens, and no one yet knows what the final state budget will be, so final numbers and plans are not complete.

Here are some of the concerns raised:

- The Board will act on a motion on 6/10, graduation day, from the Chancellor to terminate all extra hourly non-teaching assignments as of June 30, 2009. After a review, the Chancellor will be given authority to reinstate those that he deems viable.
- Base Funding: this is a serious concern that has not yet been addressed statewide or in the District. How can community colleges be asked to cut budgets 15% and still meet old base funding requirements? This will have to be addressed.
- Furloughs: No state protection has been made for employees under STRS although they have been made for PERS. Each District, then, will have to work this out with its unions.
- Faculty Obligation Number (FON): This number has been waived for this year, but whether or not the District will have to meet it numbers under the 75/25 law after next year is an open question. The District pays a hefty fine for not hiring full time faculty under this rule, and Carl Friedlander's opinion (and the Chancellor's) is that it is cheaper to hire FT faculty than to pay the state a fine.
- As of this date, the only categorical funds that are protected are EOPS and DSPS. All others are scheduled for drastic reductions, up to 62%. Additionally, categorical restrictions may be removed so that any categorical funding can be used for the general budget.
- Carl Friedlander thinks that education lobbyists can prevent the legislature from removing Physical Education courses from credit and placing them on non-credit status. However, the savings would be \$120 million, and Friedlander says that lawmakers may well say that has to come out of other parts of community college funding.
- Course credit fees will almost certainly be raised. The question is to what? Right now, Friedlander says that FACCC and the unions are working hard to keep that increase to \$26.

Other ideas to reduce the District budget include: eliminating trustee runoff elections; restrict memberships to organizations; and cut the District Office expenses.

Harbor College will have a Budget Committee meeting on Friday, June 12 at 10 a.m. in SSA 219. Everyone who can should be there.

### **Faculty Retiree Luncheon**

About 40 retirees/faculty/administration met at Simon's restaurant in San Pedro on June 10th and had a grand time reminiscing and getting re-acquainted. Thanks to Joyce Parker, Kim Valvieja and their helpers for a beautiful and successful event.

June Burlingame Smith

