



Shared Perspectives

6 March 2008

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It has been a busy few weeks on campus; I've heard people awaiting spring break with abandon. ☺

The big issue right now for the District is waiting to see what will shake out of the budget negotiations at the State before the May revise comes out. At this point, the community colleges are facing sizeable cutbacks both for this current year and for next year. How the budget deficit for the State ends up exactly will obviously be a major factor in the cuts to the community colleges. It is hard to imagine how we could cut back any further than what we have done over the past years but we are being asked to cut back more. I know this campus is already so judicious in its use of dollars. We need to be ever vigilant. We are always open to suggestions from staff. The Budget Committee will have to meet to review all accounts as the op plan is being submitted to the District Office.

As a reminder, Chancellor Drummond will be visiting campus next week, on March 11th. There will be an open forum in the Music Recital Hall from 1 – 2:30. Please work with your supervisors so you can attend the forum.

Spring break is coming upon us in short order. There have been some questions as to when the half-day holiday is actually occurring. The date selection is always a part of negotiations with the unions. This year it is on Friday, March 28th. It is the Friday during spring break. The college will close at noon. This is not the same day as Good Friday. Spring break is negotiated to go with the semester start dates so it is half way into the semester; the half day is the Friday of that week. If anyone wants Good Friday off from work, which is the 21st, they will need to use vacation time and make the arrangements with their supervisor. Also remember that the college is closed Monday, March 31, in honor of Cesar Chavez Day.

Parking has again been a significant issue the past few weeks. I know both students and staff are finding it hard to find parking by mid-morning. As ever, we have been talking with the City trying to get a regular contract for parking across the street. They have been less than willing to work with us; our city councilwoman is helping us in this effort and the students have decided to get involved legislatively. My office will get a memo out if we are able to work out any arrangements with Rec/Parks. It is frustrating as their lot sits largely empty during the week and yet they continue to charge \$3/day for parking. It is our hope to get a long-term contract for parking at the west end of their lot.

Since Tech II came down last week, you have probably noticed how significant the new Technology Building will be in transforming our campus. The building is moving along quickly, with dry wall and painting to the interiors already being completed. The student services building has completed dry wall and painting as well. That work is just underway in the North East Academic Hall.

It is anticipated that we will be able to have fall classes in the new Technology building. While Northeast Academic Hall was scheduled to be completed this summer, it is not likely we'll be in before beginning fall semester. As we get closer to completion we will get notices out to the campus. We will work any moves of departments/faculty/staff with the departments and their managers.

The fall schedule of classes will not be listing any of the new buildings for the actual classrooms. The decision was made that if we listed the new rooms and then either of the classroom buildings did not get completed in time, the confusion on campus would be greater than if we send students to the old room/lab and then have the faculty lead the students to the new building.

As you know the Facilities/Maintenance/Operations new building has been completed. We will be having an open house on April 15th. Watch your email for further information on this event.

You will begin to notice some activity on the blacktop area north of the football field. We will be putting down two new bungalows for the child care center. The center will be moving to this site for a year while construction begins on the new CDC, on the current site. When this work begins toward the end of this semester, parking will become even tighter as we will lose part or all of Lot 9, north of the Music Building.

Many of the faculty has been busy completing both Student Learning Outcomes and means of assessment of these as a part of completing our report for our accreditation. The deans and division chairs have been working with the individual departments to help faculty in addressing this mandate from WASC. While we have just submitted our progress report our mid-term report will be due next year at this time. And so while this phase of the accreditation effort has just finished, we will not have any rest before beginning the next, larger phase. We will have to show significant progress by next year in this effort.

For those faculty/staff taking time off, I hope you have a wonderful spring break. For those of us that will be on campus, I hope you can use the down time to catch up and take a bit of a deep breath.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paula M. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is located at the bottom left of the page.