



Board Highlights



Highlights of February 17, 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting

Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

Mrs. Susan M. Keith

President
Claremont/Azusa/La Verne/Pomona Representative

Dr. Gary L. Woods

Vice President
Azusa/Covina/Glendora/Irwindale Representative

Dr. Patricia Rasmussen

Clerk/Secretary
Glendora/Azusa/San Dimas Representative

Mrs. Joanne Montgomery

Member
Monrovia/Bradbury/Duarte Representative

Dr. Edward C. Ortell

Member
Duarte/Arcadia/Azusa Monrovia Representative

Mr. Andrew Cress

Student Representative

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri

Superintendent/President

Mission Statement

Citrus College delivers high quality instruction that empowers students to compete globally and to contribute to the economic growth of today's society.

We are dedicated to fostering a diverse educational community and cultural learning environment that supports student success in pursuit of academic excellence, economic opportunity, and personal achievement.

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REPORTS

Superintendent/President

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president, began her remarks by welcoming the entire campus community to the spring 2009 semester. She reported that Flex Day was very successful, and she thanked the members of the Faculty Learning Institute Committee and Ms. Kathy Bahkit, social and behavioral sciences instructor; and Ms. Sylvia Smythe, director of basic skills, who worked so hard to organize the day with its many interesting sessions.

Dr. Perri expressed her appreciation for the collaborative manner with which the college community discussed the college vision and values as we develop our new Educational Master Plan. She looks forward to continued progress in that regard.

To date, we are still awaiting passage of the state budget; however, the Community College League of California (CCLC) reports that they are nearing a resolution. Dr. Perri said there is some indication that the outlook for community colleges is not as dire as once projected. She said a number of the issues we raised with our legislators in Sacramento in January are appearing in budget language, indicating that our advocacy has been effective. In particular, it appears that Competitive Cal Grants, once slated to be cut from the 2009-2010 budget, may be maintained. Mr. Andrew Cress, student board member, spoke to this issue with each of the legislators we visited.

Dr. Patricia Rasmussen, board clerk/secretary, raised the issue of continued state funding for the Vocational Technology Building, in light of the current budget crisis. Mrs. Carol R. Horton, vice president of finance and administrative services, responded that the building is funded with Proposition 1D monies, and she did not anticipate any significant problems.

Dr. Perri said Congressman David Dreier will be on campus to speak with members of the board of trustees on Thursday. Dr. Edward C. Ortell, board member, said he is hopeful the board will be able to reinforce the importance of federal aid for education during the Congressman's visit.

Instruction

Ms. Irene Malmgren, vice president of instruction, reported on some of the highlights of Spring Flex Day. There were over 300 faculty and staff members at breakfast and lunch, and the workshops were very well attended. She said everyone was enthusiastic and invested.

Ms. Malmgren said this spring, Biology 105 will pilot Supplemental Instruction for biology students. The STEM grant will fund the tutoring, which uses previously successful biology students to tutor students who are currently enrolled in biology classes. Research has repeatedly shown Supplemental Instruction to be an effective instructional model.

The Glendora Unified School District has requested student math tutors for their middle and high schools. Ms. Esmeralda Medrano, mathematics instructor, is coordinating this STEM-supported program. Once developed, the goal is to transfer the program to service learning so it can be sustained beyond the life of the STEM grant.

Ms. Malmgren said Citrus College is one of 10 community colleges selected for a Basic Skills Initiative visit from the Hewlett Foundation. We were chosen because of positive data reflected in our self-assessment tool submitted by the College Success Committee. The site visit, which is similar to an accreditation site visit, will take place on April 1. Four colleges will eventually be selected as models of best practices.

Enrollment continues to grow, and Ms. Malmgren said they anticipate we will have many more students seeking classes this spring than we are able to serve.

Student Services

Dr. Jeanne Hamilton, vice president of student services, reported that we received a letter from the accrediting commission confirming that our comprehensive team visit would occur October 12 through October 15, 2009. We also received a report from the commission on the actions they took at their January meeting. Of the 13 colleges that received comprehensive visits, four received reaffirmed accreditation, six were placed on warning, two were placed on probation and one college was placed on "show cause."

Dr. Hamilton and the Student Services deans met with Dr. Jane Wright, CCLC consultant, to begin addressing revision of the Student Services policies.

On February 10, the college went live with CCCApply, an online application for California community colleges. Students report that the application is simpler than the BANNER online application. Another significant advantage is that CCCApply is written specifically for California's community colleges, and it includes all of the necessary data elements, which can be collected at the time of application. Dr. Hamilton said this will provide for a significant saving of staff time over BANNER and also greatly reduce the potential for errors.

Human Resources

Dr. Robert Sammis, director of human resources, reported that the next training on "leaves of absence" for managers and supervisors will be on February 25. They will discuss both paid and unpaid leaves, district and employee responsibilities and other information.

Dr. Sammis said the district and CSEA held their first negotiating session and it was a positive exchange.

Finance and Administrative Services

Mrs. Horton reported on the status of state budget negotiations. The most current version under consideration includes zero COLA, a 3 percent growth factor, a cut in funding for state mandates, deferred apportionment payments and continued funding for Competitive Cal Grants. She said part of the budget plan must go before voters, so a special election will be called on May 19. Three elements impacting community colleges will be on the ballot, including changes to the state lottery, budget stabilization, and the Proposition 98 maintenance factor. Mrs. Susan M. Keith, board president, commented that Mr. Scott Lay, executive director of CCLC, has done a remarkable job of keeping the state's community colleges informed of both state and federal developments that impact our funding. She is hopeful that the new state budget and the federal stimulus package will allow us to continue to keep California's workforce well-trained and ready to meet the demands of industry.

COMMENTS

Academic Senate

Mr. John Vaughan, academic senate president, reported that over the winter intersession faculty continued to work on the accreditation process and the new Educational Master Plan. He said many of the Flex Day activities will be crucial in addressing those two documents. There will also be a campus-wide Flex Day forum in the afternoon to discuss textbook procedures consistent with their new policy passed in the fall.

The Academic Senate will hold their next meeting on February 25, where they will begin working on the academic calendar for 2010-2011; a model of our governance structure; a restructuring of finals week; and the first of many revisions to college policies and procedures.

Members of the Board of Trustees

Mr. Cress said he attended the ASCC executive board meeting on February 10, where several subcommittees reported on the progress they had made during the winter intersession. He gave kudos to ASCC president, Mr. Stefano Saltamacchia, for meeting during the intersession and keeping up the momentum. ASCC is planning for Springfest 2009 and discussing the possibility of donating to a new textbook scholarship, "Readers to Leaders." Mr. Cress said they are also discussing participating in an upcoming southern-region rally at Pasadena City College and a rally in Sacramento to highlight the importance of California's community colleges.

Dr. Rasmussen thanked the staff for their proactive approach in dealing with the parking situation for spring. She also congratulated all faculty and staff involved with Flex Day. She said all of the sessions she attended were very good, including a great session during lunch, presented by Ms. Malmgren and Mr. Vaughan.

Mrs. Joanne Montgomery congratulated our winning basketball teams on their recent victories. She also complimented them for a beautiful program, which she said was a great tool for recruitment. Mrs. Montgomery commended forty of our students for being "Scholar Ballers" –those student athletes who maintain a B average.

Mrs. Keith praised the Flex Day activities and noted the session on the new Educational Master Plan, which was very interactive. She was especially impressed with the way each group contributed to the vision statement.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Lan Hao, director of institutional research, presented a report on the results of the 2008 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). The CCSSE provides information about student engagement or the amount of time students invest in meaningful educational practices. This is the second survey in which Citrus College has participated, and this year the faculty participated in a CCSSE faculty survey.

BOARD ACTION

The board approved seven action items, including the Quarterly Financial Status Report for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2008 and the approval of tenure for the 2009/2010 academic year for seven faculty members.