

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

March 1, 2016

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The Accreditation Team Visit that we have been looking forward to for more than a year now is finally happening! A team of 14 Community College Professionals arrived Sunday and worked all day yesterday evaluating our Self Study. Meetings occurred all day today and will again tomorrow. Meetings with the Accreditation Team members have all been scheduled by Sheila Grimes. Sheila is doing an excellent job in organizing the visit. There will be two "open forums" on Tuesday at the Weed Campus in Science Building 7-210 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and in Science Building 7-110 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will also be an open forum on Wednesday at the Yreka Campus in Building 4 Room 5 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Accreditation Open Forums are an opportunity for anyone to express their thoughts about COS to the Team. Normally, a couple of Team members will be present at each of these meetings. These are listening sessions. The Exit Meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Gym. During that time, Dr. Vurdien, Accreditation Team Chair, will provide us with a brief report. Once the report is given, the Accreditation Team will immediately leave the Campus.

Nancy Funk, Vice President – Administrative Services, recently attended a Northern CBO meeting at the State Chancellors Office. Dialogue continues on the Governor's FY 2016-2017 State Budget Proposal. State Revenues seem to be not meeting expectations at this point in time. The .47 percent COLA may disappear due to economic projections. The 2 percent Growth Funding that the Governor proposed for next year may be reduced. There is also concern on the part of the Legislative Analysts' Office (LAO) that the budget is a bit too generous. We are cautiously optimistic that State revenues will stabilize and that the State will be able to produce a budget very similar to the Governor's January proposal.

COS is one of only 6 California Community Colleges out of about 40, that we have heard from, that is expecting to be able to claim the 2 percent Growth Funds this year. The State Chancellors Office has informed us that they will seek to "spend" all of the Growth Funds this year. They intend to reallocate the "unused" funds to colleges that are growing. This was the practice that was followed by the State Chancellors Office in prior years. We believe that COS may be able to grow above the 2 percent in FTES and be eligible to receive some of the "unearned" funds from other colleges and at the same time increase our FTES Funding Cap going forward. We will be learning more about this possibility over the next several months. This year may present us with what might prove to be a one-time opportunity to significantly increase our Base Funding by an amount above the Growth authorization provided by the State. We will keep you apprised as we learn more about this from the State Chancellors Office.

We continue to be busy with employee searches this semester. Searches are currently underway for a Director of Nursing, one full-time Nursing Faculty, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Assistant Program Grant Manager – Adult Education, Administrative Assistant – CTE, Instructional Support Specialist III – Theater, Administrative Assistant – Upward Bound, and an Instructional Support Specialist – Distance Learning (Yreka Campus).

I recently attended meetings on the Update of the City of Weed's Master Plan, the Siskiyou Community Services Council, and the Siskiyou Economic Development Board.

On Friday, February 5, I lead an Institutional Effectiveness Team of 6 community college professionals to Lassen College. A second visit to Lassen College will occur near the first part of April. We have submitted a request for an Institutional Effectiveness Team to visit COS. I was notified last week that they will be scheduling an Institutional Effectiveness Team visit to COS in the fall. This process will position us to receive up to \$150,000 from the State Chancellors Office to implement some improvements here at COS.

The COS Women's Basketball Team won its first post conference game at home last Friday at 7 p.m. against Mission College. Their next game is Wednesday, March 2, at City College of San Francisco at 5:30 p.m. I hope that some of us will be able to attend that game and support our students!

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Foundation

The month of February was definitely a busy month. On February 10, I attended the annual information meeting for Siskiyou Media Council (aka MCTV-15) held at the Weed Brewery. This was an excellent opportunity to network with business members and local service group representatives. I also learned a lot about the direction the Siskiyou Media Council is moving towards in the future and how they can help with more promotion of the College and the COS Foundation.

Siskiyou Promise

One of the projects I have been working on during the month of February was to design a logo and get the web page for the new Siskiyou Promise opportunity up and running. The web page is now live – visit www.siskiyous.edu/promise/. I am still considering the web page “under development” as I would like to receive feedback on the content and flow, but in the meantime it is up and live in case someone in the community would like more information. There are also still a couple of items yet to be linked and developed but it's a great start to promoting this fantastic new opportunity for Siskiyou County high school seniors.



Eagle's Nest

Sales at the Eagle's Nest are up and we are having one of the best spring seasons we have had in the past several years. Angel Fisher and the volunteers who work at the Shop have really put a lot of effort into providing our community with low-cost, quality items along with a relaxed atmosphere in which to shop. The Eagle's Nest is open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Last Call! 2016/2017 Foundation Scholarship Applications Due March 10 - Scholarship applications for 2016/2017 are now available for Siskiyou County high school seniors (graduating June 2016) and current COS students who plan to attend COS during the 2016/2017 year. Scholarships range from \$250 to \$3,000. Applications are due March 10. Students interested in applying for a scholarship may download an application from the COS Foundation's website - www.siskiyous.edu/ia/foundation/scholarships.htm

Public Relations

Spring Musical Opens March 11

URINETOWN, the Musical, will open in the COS Theater, Friday, March 11, at 7 p.m. *URINETOWN* the Musical is



the story of a town stricken with a twenty-year drought, leading to the lawmakers outlawing private toilets and everyone now using public facilities run by the price-gouging corporation Urine Good Company (UGC). The laws, as interpreted by UGC, send those that break them to *Urinetown*, a mystic place that people are sent to and never heard from again. The poor are abused even more as much of their time is taken up raising enough money to use the public amenities and are then pushed to the brink when UGC raises the rates yet again. A hero, Bobby Strong, who watched his own father led off to Urinetown, leads the people to pee for free. While they take over and win the cause for the masses, they end up overusing the already marginal water resources.

URINETOWN the Musical will show on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, March 13, and 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets for the show are now on sale at the Weed Campus Bookstore. The cost is \$15 general admission and \$10 students, seniors, and children under 12. A family 4-pack special is also offered (4 tickets) for \$35. To purchase advance tickets, stop by the Bookstore – Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call (530) 938-5236 to order by phone.

Eighth Grade Day - March 3

On Thursday, March 3, we will be hosting approximately 400 eighth grade students from the surrounding Siskiyou County elementary schools for the annual Eighth Grade Day. The eighth graders will be on Campus from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and they will have a busy schedule. They will be starting off with a welcome in the Theater, followed with a very competitive Egg Drop Competition, tour of campus, and much more.

COS Sports Update

In a game that lived up to its billing, College of the Siskiyous topped Mission, 96-91, when the state's two most productive offenses met in the second round of the CCCAA NorCal Women's Basketball Playoffs Friday night. In a gym packed full of Eagle fans, the game was played at the speed of ping pong with Siskiyous (#8) improving to 26-1, and advancing to face of San Francisco City College, the top NorCal seed, on March 2, at 5:30 p.m. in San Francisco. It was a game of wild momentum swings and tons of turnovers, many of them caused by Mission's full-court defensive pressure. Siskiyous went into the game leading the State with an average of 95 points per game. Mission was second in the state with just under 90 points per game. In other second round NorCal games, all but one of the eight top seeds advanced. The winners of Wednesday night's four third-round games will advance to the State Tournament to face the top four teams from the south region.

COS dominated the Golden Valley Conference again this season and went 10-0 in GVC play to come away with the league title (fifth consecutive year). They also had a number of postseason GVC awards:

Melissa Dailey, Freshman – Conference MVP
Jillian Neel, Sophomore – All Conference
Megan Dailey, Freshman – All Conference
Hannah Thompson, Freshman – All Conference
Destinee Jones, Freshman – Honorable Mention

COS Speakers Series Presentation

Black Holes, Worm Holes, and Time Travel will be presented by Dr. David Carico on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Weed Campus Science Building. This presentation is open to the public and free of charge. The Speaker Series is presented by COS staff as a public service. To learn more visit <http://www.siskiyous.edu/speakerseries/index.htm> or call (530) 938-5373.

March Events:

Here's what's coming up in March:

- February 29 – March 3: Accreditation Team Visit
- March 1: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting - Closed Session at 5 p.m. /Open Public Session at 6 p.m., COS Board Room
- March 3: Eighth Grade Day – Campus, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, & 20: COS Spring Musical "Urinetown" – Friday and Saturday shows at 7 p.m., Sunday shows at 2 p.m., COS Theater
- March 17: COS Speakers Series Presentation "Black Holes, Worm Holes, and Time Travel," 7:30 p.m., Science Building
- March 18: Softball vs. Shasta, 12 p.m. and Baseball vs. Lassen, 2 p.m. at Weed Campus Softball and Baseball Fields

March Events (Con'd):

- March 19: Baseball vs. Lassen, 12 p.m. at Weed Campus Baseball Field
- March 23: Softball vs. Lassen, 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. at Weed Campus Softball Field
- March 24: Baseball vs. Feather River, 2 p.m. at Weed Campus Baseball Field
- March 25: Baseball vs. Feather River, 12 and 3PM at Weed Campus Baseball Field
- March 28 – April 1: Spring Break / No Classes

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The State budget discussions are beginning to ramp up with everyone adding their concerns to the Governor's January proposal. What we do know is that the State revenues are not meeting the expectation at this point in time. With that said, there is concern on the part of the Legislative Analysts' Office (LAO) that the budget is a bit too generous. We are cautiously optimistic that revenues will stabilize and be able to produce a budget very similar to the January proposal. It is a bit too early to tell at this point. We are looking at growing our Campus so that will help our revenues even if the State struggles.

Last month, we held training sessions on budget development; so, now the various managers and administrators are working on developing budget within their areas. They will be submitting budget proposals for review to their Vice President or President and then on through the process.

Our extended efforts for Requests for Proposals in the Food Service area were unsuccessful. We are now looking at a number of options as to how to address the need here on Campus. We will perhaps have a bit more to say on that by our actual meeting day.

We are very excited to have our new Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation with us now. Eric Rulofson started on Monday, February 29, and we are thrilled to have him with us. He and Mark Healy will be working together for a bit to make the transition.

I do want to thank Mark Healy for jumping in and helping us at a time when we really needed him. I really appreciate his willing to step in.

Maintenance

Maintenance is busy keeping up with the day to day needs. The painting of the Student Center is complete and we will be moving toward getting the back dining area painted. There are always lots of projects in every direction to keep this staff busy!

Technology

Technology is busy with all the office moves and making sure new staff starting are up and running as they begin. Eric and I have been working closely with revising the Ellucian Plan Proposal as we try to determine which items have the highest priority and would gain the most efficiency. We are hoping to finalize that project within the next few weeks.

Eagle's Nest

Eagle's Nest is working to switch over to spring merchandise so please stop by and see what's new. We are also in need of additional volunteers; therefore, if you know anyone who would love to help and support the College at the same time, please have them stop by and see Angel.

We have a new student worker, Kim Parkhurst and two new volunteers: Sharie Thomason and Darlene Rourke. Please stop in and say hello.



Long time Weed Residence is having a little fun with their newly found treasures on Valentine's Day.

INSTRUCTION

It has been a great month at COS, although the weather has been questionable some mornings. The walk from my car to the office had its challenges. It continues to be an energetic Campus – interacting with students when they come in the office, seeing them actively working on classes in the Student Center, watching the set for *Urinetown* being built, etc.

Right after the February Board of Trustees meeting, I traveled to San Francisco and met with COS staff as they helped start another police academy. I had a chance to interact with the San Francisco Police Academy command staff and communicate ways in which we can begin to award degrees to our academy students in a more effective and efficient manner. I will be attending a police academy graduation on March 11. The graduation is a humbling experience and they always recognize COS in their program.

The Basic Skills Committee has researched and started the purchase process of Edmentum software. This software will allow us to provide further support to students who need additional assistance in developing English and Math skills. The Basic Skills Committee is in the process of developing plans to fully utilize this software. New this semester is the availability of NetTutor. Using Basic Skills and Equity funds, we were able to purchase and implement a tutoring resource for online students. As we ramp-up the implementation of NetTutor, all students will be able to take advantage of this resource. Up to this point, it has received great reviews.

I have been involved with a search firm to assist us with finding a permanent Director of Nursing. The firm has been actively recruiting; and, at this point, I am confident that they will assist us in finding several great candidates.

I visited with the Principal of Mt. Shasta High School. We spoke about expanding our dual enrollment opportunities and to begin working on aligning curriculum to ensure the success of their students when they come to COS. I also spoke to the Mt. Shasta Rotary group about the Siskiyou Promise. I expect there will be much more activity surrounding the promotion of the Promise in the near future.

Associate Dean, Nancy Shepard, and Karen Tedsen have been busily working on the submission of a distance learning grant to continue to support our video conferencing capabilities to the Yreka Center and several high school sites. Nancy has also been hard at work, along with the Distance Learning Committee, in preparing ourselves for the transition from Etudes to Canvas as our Learning Management System.

Finally, the Math faculty and Dean South have been working on the Math Acceleration Project, which I am very excited about. We have the opportunity to be leaders in the field in the delivery of transfer-level Math. More about this later as the work continues, but I believe this will also provide the opportunity for us to apply for more grant funding in our student academic support area.

STUDENT SERVICES

Melissa Green, Vice President – Student Services, noted the following activities occurring in her area:

- On March 3, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., will be the 22 Annual College of the Siskiyou's Eighth Grade Inspiration Day. We are expecting over 400 eighth graders on Campus participating in a variety of activities including the legendary Egg Drop.
- Financial Aid outreach event is planned for April.
- 2016-17 financial aid forms will be available mid-March
- 2016-17 auto packaging will begin early April.
- Upward Bound will start the College Acceptance, Completion and Scholarship processing.

- All departments, student clubs, and community will be invited to an End-of-the-Year Party on May 12 at the COS Quad.
- Denis Hagarty will be attending the Statewide Veterans Conference in Chico on April 1 thru April 2.
- Poverty Awareness Training will be facilitated March 25 for staff and students.
- It is a busy month preparing for Accreditation visits and looking toward graduation and next fall!

ACADEMIC SENATE

Congrats to Bill Hirt who is a featured presenter on April 5 at the upcoming GSA meeting in Ontario to The Geological Society of America titled: Zircon Crystallization History Of The Northern Mount Whitney Intrusive Suite, Sierra Nevada, California. This will be the first presentation of results from the work done during his sabbatical.

Faculty Evaluations:

The full-time faculty are in the process of conducting part-time faculty evaluations as well as evaluations on our new full-time hires.

Senate Goals currently include a more complete policy for under 16 year olds along with some class prohibitions and forms. We are also looking at program, course, and certification closures. Faculty are considering online, free student textbooks and the funding opportunities such would provide. We are also forming an EEO pool to provide trained representatives to hiring committees.

Women's Basketball—GVC champs—hosting first round of playoff games (as this goes to print: hopefully, by meeting time, we will be discussing round 2!) **Softball and Baseball** are traveling and playing some home games—please come out and enjoy the sunshine and our student athletes! Track continues to improve with the Men's team winning the meet and the Women's team finished third at the Golden Valley Preview at Yuba College on Saturday, February 20.

The Distance Ed Committee reports that Canvas implementation guidelines will necessitate a slight shift in our roll out timeline. We will likely be running Canvas courses in parallel with Etudes for a short while before full conversion to the Canvas environment, with courses being offered in Canvas Summer 2017 (rather than the Fall 2017 as originally thought). We may even offer courses in Canvas as early as Spring 2017.

Curriculum Committee and Program Review Committee are working towards chair responsibilities and handbooks for each process.

Faculty Negotiations are progressing.

The Faculty are excited about the **Siskiyou Promise** potential! We will be working with Administration and the Foundation to promote this venture.

Faculty have continued to present seminars to dorm students. Seminars on Conflict and Finances have proven to be popular.

No other reports were submitted this month.