

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

October 6, 2015

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

We have been extremely busy this past month and have accomplished a great deal. Having all three Vice President Positions finally filled is making a tremendous difference. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work and commitment to making COS the very best institution that we can be.

The Annual Scholarship Dinner was very well attended and everyone had a great time. I am very happy to share with you that we have photos from that evening of the Coat of Many Colors on myself, Barry, and Carol along with many others including Sheila Grimes about a dozen times ☺ and finally, thankfully from our perspective ☺, on the new owner our New Vice President of Instruction, Todd Scott. The final donated amount for the Coat was \$3,150. It looks like the total net amount from this year's event is around \$9,000. That is up over \$2,000 from last year's event and more than we have raised at that event for many years.

Last week Carol Cupp, Greg Hanna, and I attended the Governance Institute for Student Success at Grossmont College that was put on by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). GISS is a nationally recognized initiative that provides action-oriented training for community college trustees and presidents to assist them in developing tools necessary for effective and data-informed governance to promote student success and completion. We received a lot of very good information at this workshop and will be sharing some of it at the Board Meeting.

I attended a Golden Valley Athletic Conference at Shasta College along with our Athletic Director Dennis Roberts. Presidents from Butte, Feather River, Lake Tahoe, Lassen, and Shasta were also in attendance. In the morning, we met jointly with the Athletic Directors and discussed athletics. That afternoon, the Presidents met and had a Region I CEO's meeting.

The State Chancellor's Office released a report from the Accreditation Task Force. This Task Force was put together to review Accreditation and see where we are as a system. The Task Force made several recommendations along with mentioning some shortcomings and challenges with the current Accreditation Commission. Additional work will be done throughout the spring at which time we will look again at Accreditation to discern how we should proceed as a system. In the meantime, the Accreditation Commission has scheduled a meeting on October 9 in Sacramento where they will be addressing the short comings that were identified. The Task Force Team Members and all the Community College CEOs have been invited to this meeting.

Our Accreditation Self Study continues to move along. We are still expecting to bring the Final Draft to the November Board meeting and the "final" Report to the December Board meeting for "final" approval. We are currently working on our Quality Focus Essays. The Accreditation Team visit is scheduled for the end of February and the first part of March.

Todd Scott and Melissa Green are working together and focusing on dual enrollment, reconnecting with high schools, and beginning to explore producing a one-year schedule beginning with FY 2016-17.

We should have Census Date FTES numbers by the end of this week and expect to be sharing them and a comparison to the Fall Semester of 2014 at the Board meeting. The Spring 2016 Semester Class Schedule is in the works and we look forward to registration for that semester to begin in November – as usual.

The fall semester Drop Date will be in November and we will again seek to encourage our students to withdraw from classes that they might otherwise receive a grade of “F.” We had good success with this effort in the Spring 2015 Semester and believe that this has a significant positive impact on Student Success.

“COS Preview Day” was held on Monday, September 21. We had over 390 participants from Siskiyou County High Schools on Campus that morning. The College Fair was held in the Gym and included representatives from thirty colleges and universities.

During the COS Preview Day, our advisers and counselors meet with fourteen of the local high school counselors to find out how we can better support them as well as to provide them with updates on changes in the assessment process with the common assessment, the increase use of multiple measures, and to talk with them regarding our local high schools using the Early Assessment Program (EAP).

On October 15, we will be doing a Campus Emergency Preparedness Drill. This date coincides with California’s State-Wide Shakeout Day. A few weeks ago, there was a fire just outside the Yreka Campus boundaries in which everyone was asked to evacuate and notification was given through Everbridge.

Negotiations with CSEA and the Faculty Bargaining Units are progressing well. We will have updates for you during closed session. Nancy Funk is developing a request for proposals for cafeteria service that will begin June 2016.

Melissa Green is working with the Student Service’s Council to complete the 2014-15 committees’ self-evaluation and will be reviewing and updating our SSSP and Student Equity Plans, as well as our Enrollment Management Plan. Student Equity and SSSP will be receiving a substantial increase in funding this year. The updated SSSP Plan is due the end of October and the Student Equity Plan is due in December.

Electronic Disbursements of Financial Aid Funds to our Students has been fully implemented. For those students who elected to receive their funds electronically had their funds deposited directly into their “bank” accounts. Cal Grant B recipients are being awarded an incentive grant of \$600. COS was one of a handful of California Community Colleges that have already delivered these funds to its students this semester.

Timelines were developed last spring for having curriculum updates in place no later than December for the upcoming academic year, with the exception of minor course corrections and non-substantial updates. We are working on reviewing and updating the three-year review cycle for curriculum. The Planning Committee is working diligently on an update of the Education Master Plan and everyone will hear more about that on Planning Day, October 9.

We have been working diligently on the Salary Classification Study and the Appeal Process is currently under way. The appeals go to the Oversight Committee; and then the Oversight Committee will make recommendations to be forwarded to the Executive President’s Cabinet this week for final decisions.

COS is currently working with STEP in developing two grants, Agriculture Organic Farming/Organic Greenhouse and a program entitled, “Slingshot.” Slingshot will be funded by both the federal and the state to train people who have been unemployed for thirty months. Dr. Taylor announced that there are additional funds available for grants, possibly \$5,000 to \$7,000, for Rural Community Colleges.

A month ago, members from the Math and English Departments attended a meeting at Shasta College on Accelerated Course Sequencing. Dialog regarding developing an accelerated curriculum for Math and English has transpired over the last few weeks. The Math Department plans to have their updated curriculum completed and to the Curriculum Committee by the end of this semester. The English Department plans to have their updated curriculum completed and to the Curriculum Committee by next September. We believe that the new curriculum will make a tremendous difference in the success of our students.

The Athletic Booster Club kicked off at the beginning of the school year and is doing very well.

As part of our current Banner service agreement, Ellucian (the parent company of our Banner operating system) will be coming to COS to perform an analysis of where we currently are in terms of our Banner technology needs. After which, they will present a strategy detailing how to fully implement Banner which could take up to three years. We have needed this to be accomplished for several years and we are excited to finally be moving forward in addressing these needs. I expect significant strides to be accomplished on this project this year and a corresponding extremely positive impact on COS.

I attended the Weed Resilience meeting on September 15 which was the one-year anniversary of the Boles Fire. We continue to work with the Community and the City on the recovery. With the grant funding we have received, the College is working with the City in constructing about 50 new homes as well as providing training to build modular homes.

The Ore-Cal Resource Conservation & Development Area Council held a two-day meeting in Yreka in which they focused on their strategic plan. This Council is interested in educational opportunities for people who live in Siskiyou, western Modoc, and Shasta Counties as well as Klamath and Lake Counties in Oregon. Todd Scott was able to attend one day of this meeting and Trustee Bob Rice was able to attend both days. COS is joining this group and we will be attending their next meeting on October 15 and 16.

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations

Last week, I attended the District conference for the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. At the NCMPR conference, I was able to network with fellow PR/marketing professionals and gain valuable information to help with our social media platform, branding of the college, website/logo updates, recruitment, media relations, and graphic design. I'm looking forward to working with the Campus to implement many of the ideas and suggestions I now have as a result of attending these conferences.



Stay Connected! It's a great time to sign up for our communication system, Everbridge. This is a free system we use to notify students and staff of emergency situations, Campus closures, or general information. To sign up, click on the Everbridge button located on the COS homepage, and follow the directions. If you're not signed up, you're missing out!!

Foundation

Scholarship Dinner:

The annual COS Foundation Scholarship Dinner was held Saturday, September 19, and if you weren't there, you definitely missed out!! I thought last year's event was pretty awesome!! But this year, by far, was the **BEST** attended dinner we have had in many years. Everyone had a lot of fun, the food was delicious, the COS Vocal Jazz group was excellent, and my personal favorite part of the evening was the Coat Auction! WOW!!! Fun times...Chris Vancil did an amazing job as our MC/Auctioneer. We also had two student scholarship recipients (John Michael Patterson and Immanuel Blanchard-Kabat) who gave incredible speeches. If you know them, please compliment them for representing College of the Siskiyous so excellently.

The highlight of the evening is always the auction of the Coat of Many Colors and Mongolian Fur Hat. The 2015 lucky recipient who will wear the coat to EVERY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING as well as EVERY ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING for the next year is our brand-new Vice President of Instruction, **Dr. Todd Scott!** This year's event raised \$9,000 to support our scholarship program.

Holiday Craft Fair

The 19th Annual COS Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Friday evening, December 4 (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.), and Saturday, December 5 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), at the COS Weed Campus in the Gym. This craft fair celebrates the finest of hand-crafted products produced by local and regional artisans and crafters. Vendor registrations are currently being accepted. For more information or to request a registration packet, call (530) 938-5373.

Foundation Mini-Grants

Last week, the Foundation Mini-Grant Readers Committee met and reviewed/selected mini-grant recipients for 2015/2016. Announcement of mini-grant recipients will be made at the October Planning Day event this coming Friday.



October Events

- October 2: COS Volleyball vs. Skyline, 6 p.m. in the COS Gym
- October 3: COS Football is on the road – playing against Foothill College in Los Altos, p.m.
- October 6: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Closed Session at 5 p.m. / Open Public Session at 6 p.m. in the COS Board Room
- October 9: All Campus Planning Day (No Classes)
- October 9: COS Volleyball vs. Lassen College, 6 p.m. in the COS Gym
- October 10 and 11: COS ASB and Drama Club Presents – *LIGHTS!* October 10 at 7 p.m. and October 11 at 3 p.m. in the COS Theater. FREE for all COS STUDENTS and STAFF!!
- October 11: COS Football has the weekend off (BYE)
- October 11: COS ASB and Drama Club Presents – *LIGHTS!* at 3 p.m. in the COS Theater. FREE for all COS STUDENTS and STAFF!!!
- October 16: COS Volleyball vs. College of the Redwoods, 4 p.m. in the COS Gym
- October 17: COS Football is on the road – playing American River College in Sacramento, 6 p.m.
- October 18: COS Choral Winter Preview Concert, 3 p.m. in the COS Theater. FREE Concert!!
- October 23: COS Volleyball vs. Feather River College, 6 p.m. in the COS Gym
- October 23, 24, and 25: COS Senior Theater Production – Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., COS Black Box Theater
- October 24: COS Football vs. Sacramento City College, 1 p.m. at Weed Campus Stadium (Tailgate Party next to the COS Tennis Courts, 11:00 a.m. – Bring Your Own Supplies)
- October 25: COS Senior Theater Production – 3 p.m., COS Black Box Theater
- October 30, 31, and November 1: COS Senior Theater Production – Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., COS Black Box Theater
- October 31: COS Football vs. Feather River College, 1 p.m. at Weed Campus Stadium (Tailgate Party next to the COS Tennis Courts, 11:00 a.m. – Bring Your Own Supplies)
- October 31: Eagle's Nest Shop is Closed to "Reset" for Christmas Extravaganza!

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

September has been a much quieter month as far as budget prep and travel. The students have seemed to get into the groove of classes again as have the rest of us. I personally did sneak in a week's vacation.

We are already hearing initial rumblings about the FY 2016-17 budget, as submitted by the Chancellor's office to the Board of Governors (BOG). It is amazing to me that we just get finished with one and begin on the next. The BOG has approved the submission and it is on to its next step. We did hear that enough signatures have been gathered to put a facilities bond on the November 2016 ballot. It still has process to go through but looks promising. Since our Theater Modification Project is a possible project for that bond, we will hope it goes through.

We have been approved by Ellucian for them to come in and do a complete evaluation of our Banner system. It will be an all campus effort but will also benefit all the campus. We will **all** be doing a short survey and then there will be an on-site visit by Ellucian where we will be asking folks to participate in the discussions. Those dates are November 17-18. Please keep those dates open for now until we get people scheduled. Thanks! It is going to take all of us and full participation to be successful. We are excited about getting our system working the way it is intended and create some much needed efficiencies that will allow all of us to work smarter.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Department had a very active summer and it doesn't seem to have let up much. We will be opening up the position of a permanent Director of Maintenance and Operations shortly and all are anxious to get that position filled. During the month of October, we will be doing sidewalk upgrades and repair so watch for barriers and temporary detours. In addition, the new lampposts will be completed and lighting around the campus will be improved. We will have some new lighting in the parking lot by the administration building and along the street on the east side of the campus.

Business Office

The Business Office continues to work on closing the books for FY 2014/15 and preparing for the auditors arrival in October.

Technology

The Technology Department is working with the Campus on the Ellucian project to get things rolling for this great evaluative project around all the other daily things that happen (moving computers, relocating equipment, keeping our networks working, and updates running). Thank you for the consistent hard work that is constantly done by this team.

Eagle's Nest

The Eagle's Nest had the best gross sales in 17 years for both August and September. We are up in sales just shy of \$9,000 for the first quarter over last year. Way to go Angel and all the volunteers...

On November 2 our Holiday extravaganza begins at 7 p.m. Be sure to stop by and see what we have!

The Eagle's nest is currently looking for furniture and household items. We are scheduling weekly pick-ups for furniture during the month of October. Call the store to schedule a pick-up of good usable furniture and household items.

INSTRUCTION

Since my start at COS on August 31, there have been many pleasant surprises, winning the Coat of Many Colors and being given the privilege to wear it to Board and Academic Senate meetings is very close to the top of the list. It has been a busy month for me, meeting many people and trying to remember names. I have spent some time speaking with faculty leaders discussing the past, present, and future. I want to break speed records moving us forward.

On September 3, I attended the Ore-Cal Resource Conservation & Development Area Council's Strategic Planning Workshop. Trustee Rice was in attendance and we both suggested that COS play a larger role in the educational components of the Ore-Cal RC & D's proposed educational outreach initiatives. Educational models for K-12 students are being piloted around the country and once those are complete we can strategize on how to implement the program within our service area.

On September 10, VP Green and I visited with Modoc High School administrators in Alturas to solidify our current dual enrollment relationship and explore methodologies in which we can encourage Modoc students to attend COS.

From September 22 through the 24, Dr. Taylor and I attended the Rural Community College Alliance in Reno, NV. I returned from the conference full of ideas and a sense of urgency to begin implementing promising initiatives. I was particularly interested in a USDA grant program, strategic planning principles, distance learning examples, becoming a resilient college for the 21st Century, and leadership development programs for students that were presented.

The development of the spring schedule is well under way and will be heading to the various constituencies on campus for review and then for publication and distribution. Accreditation and planning activities are moving forward, campus wide Planning Day is scheduled for October 9.

Finally, we received notification that the Siskiyou Regional Fire Academy has been accredited by the California State Fire Marshal for another five years. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of our Fire/Emergency Response Technology program faculty and administration. I look forward to the continued growth and progression of this program.

STUDENT SERVICES

College of the Siskiyou hosted 355 high school seniors and 48 chaperones and counselors on Preview Day. The faculty demonstrations were well attended and both the outdoor Preview Day and indoor College Fair were busy throughout the morning. Participant information was collected at lunch time which will allow us to follow up with them as they prepare their college applications in the coming months.

Financial Aid

Another busy month in the Financial Aid Office! We have currently awarded Pell grants to 778 students for a total of \$742,944! We have also awarded 126 students Cal Grant B's & C's. New this year is the Full-Time Student Success Grant (FTSSG) for recipients of Cal Grant B's who are enrolled full time. In addition to the annual \$1,656 Cal Grant B award, full-time students are receiving the Full-Time Student Success Grant (FTSSG) of \$600 per year. So far, we have 74 COS students who have received the new FTSSG. This grant is designed to encourage students to maintain full-time status, which will allow students to complete their degree faster!

Jan Harris and Andrea Castro manned a Financial Aid booth at the COS Preview Day and College Fair Event on September 21. The high school students were asked a financial aid question and then allowed to spin the wheel for a fabulous prize! The booth was really popular with the students, high school counselors and parents! We all had a great time and it was exciting to see so many future COS students!

ACADEMIC SENATE

Our second Academic Senate meeting allowed us to conduct our annual review of Senate and College committee participation. As the discussion began, there were 59 committees on the list. By combining the tasks of some committees and eliminating other committees, the list was reduced to 47 committees. Still, full-time faculty serve on an average of 5.2 committees each.

EEO Training: The faculty have been increasingly concerned about the small number of EEOs, the lack of updated training even for those, and the impact this has had on hiring committees. So when Patrice shared with us an opportunity for EEO training, some faculty members were able to partake. We would like to see much more training made available across Campus.

On that note, the Academic Senate is also working on formalizing what we see as necessary improvements to the hiring process to make sure applicants feel welcomed and respected.

Accreditation Self-Study work is mostly out of the faculty writers and Standards co-chairs hands now. Steve Reynolds continues his dedicated work as ALO and will be training faculty editors as the next stage goes in motion.

Academic Program Reviews are completed (if there has been a full-time faculty member in the discipline) and Peer Program reviews are in progress. Full-time faculty have completed and submitted SLO data. Greg South has been meeting with faculty in the LAS area to discuss Program Reviews.

Classes are well underway! Faculty are busy in their classes, online, meeting with students, grading papers, and in the library and counseling. New Soccer Coach, Ed Kephart is recruiting and holding practice; new Counselor Michelle Knudsen, is meeting with students; New Math teacher, Shirley Louie, is busy with classes and helping the department to create an accelerated Math sequence; and the new Fire teacher, Mike Wilson, is busy with core classes and the academies.

The Faculty have collaborated on a “due dates” list that that allows us to centralize such timelines as curriculum, catalog, insurance, program reviews, evaluations, and more into one place.

Hiring committees have met and announcements have gone out for Math, Psychology, Welding, and Nursing.

Faculty attended the COS Scholarship dinner and spent hundreds of dollars for Dr. Scott to wear the Coat of Many Colors and additional hundreds on a lovely carrot cake made by Sharie Thomason.

No other reports were submitted this month.