

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

April 5, 2016

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

We received the initial "draft" from the Accreditation Team Tuesday, March 22. We had meetings on Thursday and Friday (March 24 and 25) for dialogue and input from the COS Accreditation Steering Committee as to corrections of "facts and errors" in the Visiting Team's "draft." We submitted our information to the Accreditation Team Chair, Dr. Vurdien, on Monday, March 28, as they requested.

We expect to receive the Team's final document in the next week or so from the Accreditation Commission. At that time, we will also receive guidance as to the process and timelines for COS to provide updated information to the ACCJC Commission prior to their taking action on our accreditation status at their June meeting. We anticipate providing updates on our actions relative to the Team's recommendations that we will have completed during the next couple of months. We also anticipate that we will have completed a significant amount of the actions that the Team is suggesting by June.

At its June Commission, the ACCJC is making its decision on our accreditation status. We should hear by the end of June or the first part of July what our accreditation status will be going forward. I want to thank everyone for all of the hard work that has occurred as we have addressed accreditation. I believe that everyone here at COS is committed to making us the very best institution that we can be.

Relative to accreditation, at the June ACCJC meeting they will also be deciding on the accreditation status for San Francisco City College (SFCC). It remains to be seen whether or not they have made enough progress to return to being fully accredited. If they do not return to fully accredited status by the end of this calendar year, the State may be compelled to have other California Community Colleges get involved with running SFCC as was the case with Compton College, a number of years ago.

On Friday, March 11, I listened in on an ACCJC Webinar on "Changing Accreditation: Consequences and Fact Checking." I then attended the Annual California Community College CEO Symposium Saturday, March 12, thru Tuesday, March 15. During the Symposium, there was an almost four-hour discussion on accreditation. At the end of the discussion, the CEO's took a position that:

"There should be fundamental changes made to our accreditation processes and structures. During any exploration of change, all colleges must maintain their current status, terms, and cycle for accreditation with the ACCJC. A parallel approach should be followed which includes making improvements in the existing processes and culture of ACCJC, and at the same time, exploring alternative structures for a regional accreditor, which will take many years to develop.

To pursue changes, the member organizations should immediately form two representative planning groups to develop and recommend improvements regarding the ACCJC, and facilitate communication leading to the long-range goal of California's Community Colleges participating in a structure for regional accreditation that aligns all segments of higher education.

These two planning groups should include representatives from the California Community Colleges, the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, the Western Pacific Community Colleges, and the ACCJC, and, where appropriate, other regional accreditors."

The California Community College Board of Governors has taken action to endorse the CEO's position.

Dialogue continues on the Governor's FY 2016-2017 State Budget Proposal. State Revenues for the month of February were up significantly, more than offsetting lower State revenues during the previous two months. We continue to be optimistic that State will continue to receive strong revenues this year and that the State will be able to produce a budget very similar to the Governor's January proposal.

The California Legislature has been busy producing around 2,000 Bills. A relatively small number of these pertain to California Community Colleges. A couple of the Bills that pertain to Community Colleges are:

- AB 1721 – This Bill would increase the Cal Grant B award, increase eligibility from 28 to 31 years old, and increase the number of competitive awards available.
- AB 1892 – This Bill is sponsored by the Chancellor's Office and would increase the Cal Grant C award from \$1,553 to \$3,000 per year and focus on public institutions.
- AB 1583 and SB 1653 – This Bill would establish a California Promise program.

At the Federal level, legislative discussions are focusing on year round Pell Grants, increasing the Pell Grant award amounts, and College Promise (free Community College education).

We are monitoring these as well as other legislation that is being worked on.

Enrollment at COS continues to be strong relative to our FTES goals for this year. It still appears that we should be eligible to receive significant growth funds this year.

We continue to be busy with employee searches this semester.

Dr. Todd Scott and I have a telephone conference call scheduled for the end of April to address preliminary plans for the Institutional Effectiveness visit to COS that will be occurring during the fall semester. This should lead to COS receiving \$150,000 for activities that will strengthen our institutional effectiveness.

Our efforts to identify an outside vendor to provide our Food Service operation ended up being unsuccessful. We are proceeding with plans to provide Cafeteria services during the summer with temporary staff and then for COS to run the operation ourselves with a Food Service Manager/Cook and additional staffing in place for the fall semester.

We will be accomplishing some modifications to the Cafeteria as well as the Lodges over the next several months to facilitate our bringing the food services operation "in house."

I attended a "CTE Date Unlocked Training" workshop, in Chico last Friday along with Bart Scott and Kim Greene. Each College that sends a team of three to this training will receive a \$50,000 CTE Grant.

April 10 thru April 20, I will be taking the family to Hawaii for a vacation. We will have a Vice President in charge while I am gone.

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Happy April! The month of March just flew by. For me it was because I took two weeks of much needed vacation. Now that it's April; Spring Break is officially over; and, we are on the down-slide to the end of the semester, it's going to go by fast. Get ready graduation...here we come!

Foundation

Siskiyou Promise

The web page is live – visit www.siskiyou.edu/promise/, and the application for high school seniors to fill out has been linked. Last week, we received our first application. Many more will be submitted between now and the fall semester.



Public Relations

Senior Theater Performances

The Siskiyou Senior Players return to COS for their 10th annual spring show, “*High on the Slopes of Mt. Shasta?*” You will meet Senators Blowhard, Bott, and Clueless as well as Stoney, the Major, and Gertrude the “Damsel in Distress,” along with many other characters as they take you higher up the slippery slopes of the mountain. Showings of this spring show will be held in the COS Black Box Studio Theatre on Friday and Saturday, April 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door and at the Village Book Store in Mt. Shasta – cost is a suggested donation of \$10. Limited seating is available.

COS Speakers Series Presentation

“Peru: The Country of Hidden Treasures,” will be presented by COS International Student – Simon Leon, 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.siskiyou.edu/speakerseries/index.htm> or call (530) 938-5373.

April Events:

Here’s what’s coming up in April:

- April 5: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting - Closed Session at 5 p.m./Open Public Session at 6 p.m., COS Yreka Campus in the RHSI, Room 121
- April 6: COS Scholar Athlete Presentation, 12 p.m. at Weed Campus Gym
- April 8: Baseball vs. Butte, 2 p.m. at Weed Campus Baseball Field
- April 9: Baseball vs. Butte, 12 p.m. at Weed Campus Baseball Field
- April 9: Softball vs. Redwoods, 12 p.m. at Weed Campus Softball Field
- April 21: COS Speakers Series Presentation, “Peru, the Country of Hidden Treasures,” 7:30 p.m. at Weed Campus Science Building, Room 210
- April 22: Softball vs. Butte, 12 p.m. at Weed Campus Softball Field
- April 23: Softball vs. Feather River, 12 p.m. at Weed Campus Softball Field
- April 25: Priority Registration for summer/fall Begins
- April 28: Poetry Reading sponsored by COS Library (Event tentative - more information to come.)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

So far, we are not hearing much about the positioning on the State Budget. Revenues for the State in February beat the forecasts by 12.7 percent. That was good news on the heels of a slight decline in January. This outweighs that slow month with a year-to-date increase at the State level of \$442 million compared to the revised forecast done in January for the proposed budget according to the Department of Finance. March is generally a strong revenue month for the State with corporate taxes due in March. We should be receiving those numbers shortly. All in all, the State revenues are remaining strong which should bode well for our 2016-2017 budgets.

I again want to thank the Board for holding a special meeting in order to get our Ellucian contract approved. This really meant a lot to me and I know to Eric Houck as well to be able to save an additional \$200,000 over the life of the contract. Now the real fun begins. We are all excited to see the improvements that will be developed as we go through this process.

The budget process is going along, and we are beginning to compile the various requests that have come in so we can see what our overall looks like. That will be making its way through the process over the next couple of months.

The decision has been made to bring our food services back in house; so, much work is being done with trying to make sure we have everything covered for summer with interim and temporary help. We anticipate being fully operational to meet our catering needs for the summer and will be working to have staffing in place by August. I have been very appreciative of other food service directors both working and retired who have been willing to share their knowledge and expertise in helping us get up and running. There is a lot to do; but, we are really excited to look at the new opportunity to make things better for both the students and employees of the College.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Department is going gang busters this week over Spring Break being able to get some things accomplished that are difficult to do with classes in session. There are so many projects on the list and we are only beginning to scratch the surface. Eric has certainly stepped in and is up for the challenge. He is already looking at ways to make life here at COS better for all of us!

Technology

Technology Services is working on so many different projects. We will begin working with the Ellucian team to fine tune the timeline and begin work on the various projects. At the same time technology will be working on refreshing some of the existing equipment and updating computers around Campus.

Eagle's Nest

The Eagle's Nest has gained some new volunteers, and we are excited about having the additional help. Sales are continuing to build as well so come on by and see what might be there for you!

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services staff met with the Soccer and Football coaches, as well as Associate Dean, Dennis Roberts, to plan for our 2016-2017 student athletes. Topics included housing, financial aid, and registration. Our goal is to improve processes for new student athletes and create a seamless transition to College of the Siskiyous.

We met as a team to begin preparations for Commencement, to be held on May 20. The time and location of Commencement will be the same as last year. We look forward to seeing our outstanding students graduate on this special day.

We also met to create processes for the implementation of the Siskiyous Promise. Applicants will be identified upon receipt of the Siskiyous Promise application (now online) and staff will reach out to these students to assist them with financial aid processing and the matriculation processes.

A Poverty Awareness Training was conducted on March 25, which was attended by some of our faculty, staff, as well as teachers from the County School District and Trustee Penny Heilman. We learned about the different types of poverty and made personal commitments to "next steps" to address poverty as individual community members. This training was sponsored by our Student Equity Plan.

Melissa will be attending the American Association of Community Colleges convention in Chicago, April 9 through the 12, followed by the California Community College Chief Student Services Administrators Association conference in Sacramento, April 19 through the 21.

Financial Aid

Jan Harris and Karen Chandler attended a day long Jim Brigg's tax workshop at Sierra College in Rocklin in order to keep current with the latest tax information as it relates to financial aid verification of student files.

Jan Harris will be attending the spring CCCSFAAA conference in San Diego, April 3 through April 7. This will include a two-day All-Director training.

Lauren Bellone and Karen Chandler have put together a Financial Aid outreach event for Wednesday, April 20, Whacky Wednesday!! We will be inviting our COS students, high school students, and our community to participate in a daylong event that will explore and explain the financial aid application and process. Participants will attend an hour-long session during the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will receive a fun-filled and educational goodie bag!!

The Financial Aid Office is now set up to receive 2016-2017 financial aid documents. Students can log onto their COS navigator and view any items that need to be submitted in order to complete their file. We will begin auto packaging financial aid awards in April. Once a student's file is complete and auto packaged, they will receive an email from us informing them to log onto their Navigator to view their awards. This will also allow them to print out the award letter if needed.

The Department of Education released the 2013 draft Cohort Default rate. College of the Siskiyous' draft rate is 23.1 percent which is the lowest since the Department of Education switched from a two-year rate to a three-year rate! The official rate will be posted in September, 2016.

Admissions and Records

We are pleased to introduce and welcome Julie Williams, our new Student Services Specialist, who will start on April 7.

College of the Siskiyous went live with CCC Apply on February 11; and, we plan to go live with e-Transcript by end of April or early May. CCC Apply and the e-Transcript are a result of two mini grants from the Chancellor's Office.

As of the March 31, 2016, we have received 101 summer and 485 fall applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. Admissions and Records and Student Equity staff will be conducting follow-up activities this month with these applicants, encouraging them to complete the SOAR (Siskiyou Orientation, Advising, and Registration), and financial aid processes.

Admissions and Records is also currently setting up Banner processes for 365 Registration which will enable student to register for summer, fall, and spring terms simultaneously starting with Priority Registration on April 25.

Finally, we are continuing our work on enhancements to the registration process such as:

- On line-tutorials for Navigator and CCC Apply
- Implementation of a process for ordering transcripts online
- Creating an online Veterans intake form. This will increase the capability of identifying and serving the Veteran student population.

Student Life/Lodges

Associated Student Body (ASB)

- ASB celebrated Women's History Month and Caesar Chavez day with elaborate displays in the Student Center.
- ASB also hosted the spring regional ASB conference with four schools in attendance. These colleges were College of the Siskiyous, Butte College, Shasta College, and College of the Redwoods.
- April will also see ASB students traveling to Orange County for the Student Government Assembly.

Lodges

- The Lodges conducted several success seminars recently, such as: Essay Tips for Midterms, How to Get Motivated, and How to Play Chess.
- Recent improvements to the Lodges include fruit baskets in each Lodge lobby, repairs to the pool table and a new ping pong table.
- The Service Club hosted a trash pick-up in the Bel Air neighborhood. Also, thanks for all the food donations during their Holiday Food Drive for hungry students.
- In April, we are looking forward to combining ASB and Lodge resources to host the following sexual harassment awareness and prevention events:
 - "It's on Us" Pledge. This is a White House initiative, encouraging students to pledge to report sexual harassment. There will be information tables in the Student Center and Lodges. Check out the website at <http://itsonus.org/>
 - Denim Day, April 27. Everyone is invited to wear denim in solidarity with the assault victim who was told by a judge "with those tight jeans you wearing were basically giving permission" before dismissing the case.
- Lodge applications are now on line for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Success seminars scheduled include, "Healthy Eating for the Dorm Student," and "Tips for Stress Relief"

SAVE THE DATE:

End of the year party is May 12 and all COS community members are invited.

Counseling/Student Success

Fixed Versus Growth Mindset Workshop

Our very own Sunny Green conducted a workshop on exploring mindset and developing a more "growth" oriented perspective. A self-assessment was given, reasons for our fixed mindset and ideas shared, scenarios presented, and opportunities to practice growth mindset were provided. There was even reference to neuroscience and connections forming when we face challenges. The majority of the Student Services staff participated in this one and one-half hour workshop, and it was well received. Thank you to Sunny for providing a fun and beneficial opportunity!

CARE Student Regional Conference

On April 1 and 2, CARE students from College of the Siskiyous, Shasta, Lassen, and Butte College will convene in Redding to participate in a regional conference. The conference will include workshops and professional/personal development opportunities for students in the CARE (Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education) programs in the north state. The state-funded CARE program is a supplement to the EOPS program and is for students with children. The children are also included in the CARE Regional Conference experience, and all expenses for the CARE students are paid through CARE funds. The conference has already been a success with more CARE students committed to attending than expected, and an excellent collaboration between CARE programs in northern California. We hope this will be the first of many annual events.

The Six Dimensions of Wellness Workshop for CalWORKs, CARE, Foster Youth, EOPS, and Student Support Services Students

Jennifer Reynolds, part-time Siskiyou employee in Human Resources and Counseling and currently completing her internship for a Masters in Social Work, will be conducting a three-series workshop for students on the Dimensions of Wellness. Students from the CalWORKs, CARE, and Foster Youth programs are the focus, and EOPS and Student Support Services Students will also be invited. Students who are interested will be asked to commit to attending all three workshop sessions, and will benefit from a self-assessment, specifically targeted activities, and referrals to additional support based on areas of need.

High School SOAR (Siskiyou Orientation, Advising, and Registration) Sessions

Every spring semester, we contact our local Siskiyou County High Schools, as well as Modoc High School, to see if they have interest in having our High School SOAR Team come to their school to provide an on-site SOAR session. This spring, we were contacted by Fall River High School and they asked us to come. To date, a total of nine schools have been scheduled. We have added Fall River and Golden Eagle North to our SOAR High School visits. We will begin these special SOAR sessions in May. In preparation, scheduled schools are being contacted for a list of students participating so assessment can be completed and high school transcripts obtained prior to the SOAR. This ensures students will be placed into Math and English courses appropriately and to aid in the creation an abbreviate education plan in addition to their fall schedule of classes. Upon completion of these sessions, participating students are registered full time for fall semester and some are also registered for a class or two for summer session.

CCCAssess – the Common Assessment – Implementation Workshop

A team of folks involved with Assessment (Donna Farris, Rebecca Hobbs, Eric Yerkes, and Valerie Roberts) attended a workshop on the Common Assessment. This workshop provided an overview of the Common Assessment, which is officially called CCCAssess. The workshop also provided important and necessary information to colleges who will be implementing CCCAssess in the next several months. College of the Siskiyou is an Early Adopter, so we will be preparing to implement CCCAssess for use this fall (November) for spring registration. Valerie will be convening all the stakeholders involved for an overview meeting in the next few weeks, and from there will continue to work with those involved to prepare for full use starting in November, 2016, when COMPASS is no longer available. Stakeholders including assessment staff, counselors and advisors, IT folks, English and math faculty, Bart, Melissa, and Todd. More to come soon.

Student Success Conference

Valerie Roberts attended a conference titled Advancing Student Success: From Plan to Action, which focused on efforts funded through Student Equity and SSSP funds. Areas of focus for Valerie were MIS data reporting for SSSP (accurate reporting of every service provided to students positively impacts our future SSSP allocations) and best practices in the area of multiple measure (as we transition from COMPASS to CCCAssess – the Common Assessment).

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE! ~ From your friends and colleagues in Student Services.



ACADEMIC SENATE

Mike Tischler and Chris Vancil hosted, "The Hunting Grounds," and had meaningful student dialog about responding to and preventing sexual assaults on Campus or upon COS students. This was attended by male and female students, primarily from the dorms. The Faculty Association provided dinner for those attending.

Senate

Faculty have decided to let individual faculty members examine and test using free student textbooks before making institutional commitment for adaptation.

We have also formed an EEO pool to provide trained representatives to hiring committees. Faculty hiring committees are working on an expedited schedule to, hopefully, have new faculty hired before the end of May.

In a new partnership with the California Conservation Corps and John Muir Charter School, we are piloting a program to encourage this group to pursue college educations.

Faculty are also working on graduation, discussing Emeritus possibilities, encouraging students to petition and walk in graduation, and soliciting graduation speakers.

Sports

Softball and Baseball have hosted terrific games. Please come out and enjoy the sunshine and swinging bats! The track and field teams are also active and setting records!

Curriculum Committee and Program Review Committee are working towards chair responsibilities and handbooks for each process. The Curriculum Committee has been working on a restructured and slimmed-down General Education core.

Conferences

In addition to midterms, many faculty members will be attending conferences this month. Three of our new faculty members will be attending a conference on assessment, two of us will be attending an honors conference, two of us will be attending the Spring Plenary, and another faculty member will be attending the Spring Council. Faculty, Staff, and Administration also recently attended the Poverty Workshop and learned that, among other things, Siskiyou County's poverty rate is the highest in the state and measures an astounding 23 percent. This statistic makes our student success initiatives even more vital.

Faculty Negotiations are progressing.

No other reports were submitted this month.