

EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard Torrance, California 90506-0001 Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

March 5, 2008

Board of Trustees El Camino Community College District

Dear Members of the Board:

Welcome to the changing times.

Please be sure that your clock springs forward one hour over the weekend so you will be available for a brief groundbreaking ceremony prior to our Monday, March 10th Board meeting. You may either meet us in the Northwest area of Parking Lot H (next to Tennis and Volleyball Courts) for a 3:30 p.m. groundbreaking ceremony or meet in my office by 3:15 p.m. and a cart will transport you. Naturally the Board meeting starts at 4:00 p.m.

The March Board meeting starts with two presentations: one by Mr. Chris Powell for the Annual Report of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, and another presentation by Dr. Francisco Arce on Student Learning Outcomes.

The consent agenda includes relative routine actions throughout the agenda, and a report in Administrative Services for Fund 15. Unless we hear otherwise, we will change the Fund 15 presentation to make it more effective and efficient by listing projects and present it on a quarterly basis with our other financial reports.

The closed session agenda includes two labor relation items, and a personnel matter – the reason we called this meeting early due to a March 15th issue, and another President's evaluation session.

Your attachments include responses to requests from the February Board meeting; Attachment A, and a report on the Community Advancement Division, Attachment B.

Attachment C consists of a number of recent e-mails concerning the Brown Act.

Other items of interest include:

- 1. "South Bay's Own 'Idol' Leaps Past First Hurdles," *The Daily Breeze*, February 23, 2008;
- 2. "Schwarzenegger Orders Hiring Freeze," Sacramento Bee, February 19, 2008;

- 3. "Fears and Administrative Hassles Deter Community-College Students in Their First Term, They Say," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 4, 2008;
- 4. "State Preparing to Borrow, Faces Cold Market for Munis," Los Angeles Times, February 29, 2008;
- 5. "School Budgets Squeezed," Sacramento Bee, February 29, 2008;
- 6. "Man Who Died Trying to Help Cat Was Experienced Climber," *OCRegister.com*, February 28, 2008;
- 7. "More Local Agencies Caught in Bond Turmoil," *Sacramento Bee*, March 3, 2008;
- 8. Notice of Road Closures and Parking Changes Effective March 3, 2008;
- 9. El Camino College's Annual Cherry Blossom Festival invitation;
- 10. Memo from Erik Skinner, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy, February 20, 2008, Budget Update;
- 11. Memo from Dr. Barbara Beno, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, January 31, 2008; giving a report on the January 9-11, 2008 Commission meeting;
- 12. "Four Community Colleges Faculty Honored With 2008 Hayward Award for Excellence in Education," California Community Colleges System Office, March 3, 2008;
- 13. Memo from The Inter-Club Council & Student Development Office, February 19, 2008, announcing the 3-Day Campus Bloodmobile;
- 14. 10th Annual Black Caucus Leadership Conference flyer provided by Trustee O'Donnell;
- 15. "CSU Told 'Civility' Demand is Too Vague," SignOnSanDiego.com, January 21, 2008;
- 16. President's Newsletter, February 11, 2008;

Please let Susan Pickens or Kathy Oswald know of your participation in the groundbreaking ceremony scheduled prior to Board meeting to start at 3:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns on any matter please feel free to contact Kathy Oswald or me. I look forward to seeing you Monday, March 10th.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Fallo

Superintendent/President

TMF/sgp

CC: Vice Presidents, Provost, Director of Community Relations



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard Torrance, California 90506-0001 Telephone (310)532-3670 or 1-877-ECAMINO

March 4, 2008

El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees

Dear Trustees:

Below is the information requested at the February 19, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting with regard to three programs in the Academic Affairs and Student Services Areas. The programs in question are: 1. Enrollment of CalWORKs students in the Nursing Program; 2. Full-Time/Part-Time Faculty Ratio; 3. F-1 Visa student recruitment and selection of Study Abroad Program sites.

1. CalWORKs Students Enrolled in the Nursing Program

Currently there are five CalWORKs students enrolled in the Nursing Program and 58 CalWORKs students who declared Nursing as a major and are in various stages of completing the prerequisites for entrance into the program. Although many of the students in the Nursing Program may be employed, they are discouraged from working because the program is very demanding. Ideally, students enroll in the program for four-semesters. Students are encouraged to dedicate themselves completely to the program because if they receive less than a "C" in any of the courses during the term, they must repeat the course which sets them back. Full-time students may be eligible for financial aid or scholarships as an alternative to being employed.

There are currently about 600 students enrolled in the Nursing Program making it one of the largest programs in the region. This number includes 100 students at the Compton Center. The College received several State grants to support the program and is continually seeking ways to expand support services for the nursing students.

The Associate Science Degree in the Nursing Program is demanding and rigorous requiring advance academic preparation, personal commitment and a considerable amount of time, study and preparation outside the class. For every hour of in-class time, a student spends a minimum of 2-4 hours outside of class studying and preparing for class and/or the clinical experience.

2. Full-Time Faculty/Part-Time Faculty Ratio

Every year the College is required to analyze and report to the State the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty employed at the College. This is known as the Calculation of Full-Time Faculty Obligation Report. Currently, El Camino College employs 333

full-time faculty members. The long term goal of the State is for colleges to employ 75 percent of the faculty in a full time capacity. The goal is based on the concept that having a higher ratio of full time faculty in community colleges contributes toward a stronger collegial environment resulting in higher levels of scholarship and student success. The goal is based on enrollment and the 1990 base year when the program started. In fall 2008, the District will be required to employ 333 (62%) of the faculty members in a full-time status. If enrollment were to increase significantly next year, the full time goal will increase proportionally. The District is in compliance with the assigned goal.

3. F1-Visa Students/Study Abroad

For the past few years, regular recruiting trips have been made in the fall to Southeast Asia (Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila, Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok) and in the spring to Japan (the major source of students). Because of the cost of recruiting trips, ECC began contracting with agents in foreign countries to recruit students on our behalf. Because of the relationships developed by the international student coordinator in these countries, the agent contacts come primarily from Asian countries.

Although we have considered recruitment tours to Europe, Africa, South America, and the Indian Sub-Continent, for cost reasons, these tours were not approved. If we were to explore contractual relationships with agents in European and African countries, it is likely that we would need to attend recruiting fairs in targeted countries in order to establish a relationship with agents who would recruit on our behalf. The viability and dependability of agents in these other regions are not known to staff at this time.

A related question about the college Study Abroad Program was also raised. The Study Abroad Program is completely separate from the foreign students program and exists primarily to offer study abroad experiences for El Camino students in foreign countries. The sites selected are based on a variety of criteria including instructor interest, program availability, cost, and student interest. Last January during the winter session, a group of students studied in Ghana where they were housed at the University of Ghana at Accra. Kofi Yanke, a part-time faculty member, led the group of 16 students. In summer 2008, a group of students will study and visit in Eastern Europe under the direction of Matthew Ebiner. The tour will include Prague, Poland, Slovakia, Budapest, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria. The study sites are selected by the Study Abroad Committee chaired by Dr. Miranda, Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

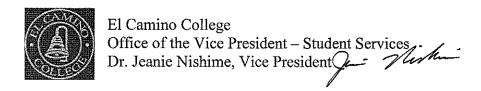
Regards

Francisco M. Arce, Ed.D.

Vice President, Academic Affairs

Jeanie M. Nishime, Ed.D.

Vice President, Student Services



March 3, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT DIVISION

The following is an overview/description of the various programs and grants, which comprise the Community Advancement Division. Programs are located at El Camino College's off-campus facility, the Business Training Center in Hawthorne, the Inglewood Center, and the El Camino College campus. A more comprehensive report on the Inglewood Center will be provided next month.

1. <u>Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT)</u>

Funded by the Chancellor's Office as part of their Economic and Workforce Development Program, CACT's responsibility is to help manufacturing and aerospace companies become more productive by way of providing expert consulting and training in manufacturing skills, continuous improvement, business and computer skills. The areas of service includes LAX, Inglewood, Compton (Compton Educational Center), and the Alameda Corridor to the Port of Los Angeles.

Additional projects associated with CACT are:

- o Responsive Training for Incumbent Workers for Honeywell
- o Fastener Technology Training Center (El Camino College and Compton Educational Center)
- o Quickstart: Plugging into Competitiveness
- California Innovation Corridor's Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant

2. Center for International Trade Development (CITD)

Funded by the Chancellor's Office as part of their Economic and Workforce Development Program, CITD's responsibility is to enhance the international competitiveness of businesses in the Greater South Bay and Los Angeles County and to expand their markets and sales and thereby contribute to the region's economic and job growth. The program includes the 7-step Export Enabler:

- o Personalized counseling
- Weekly orientations for start-ups
- Export readiness assessment



- o Workshops
- o Market research and planning
- o Promotional Assistance
- o International matchmaking

3. Contract and Community Education

This is a non-grant funded program within the Chancellor's Office Economic and Workforce Development program. The program provides not-for-credit training and consulting to businesses and organizations. The services are fee-based and utilize industry experts on a contractual basis. Most of the training is provided to companies with funding from the Employment Training Panel (ETP), a state agency that provides funds for employee training. The Business Training Center has a contract with ETP to provide specific types of customized training as well as performing all administrative functions for this process.

The following departments are part of the Contract and Community Education department:

- Community Education Offers fee-based, not-for-credit classes, workshops, seminars, activities and events to lifelong learners for personal and professional enrichment that are not offered by the credit programs. Classes are offered in the evening, weekends and online.
- O Inglewood Center Provides public access to technology, basic skills classes, college-level classes, academic and career technical advising, onsite Math and English Assessment, financial aid application assistance, as well as extended hours to help students acquire the basic skills necessary to transition into a career technical certificate program, an AA/AS degree program or transfer to a four-year university.

4. Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Funded by the US Small Business Administration and the Chancellor's Office, the Small Business Development Center's purpose is to grow businesses in this region through delivery of one-on-one counseling, seminars, workshops, conferences and other technical activities that contribute to the achievement and the success of existing businesses that foster growth of new businesses and jobs. The areas of services include LAX, Inglewood, Compton, and Alameda Corridor to the Port of Los Angeles.



The Following entities comprise the Small Business Development Center (SBDC):

- o Small Business Development Center
- o <u>Small Business Development Center's Access to Capital Forum</u>. The Forum is a two-stage process to encourage businesses to develop business plans to increase the opportunity for survival and the ability to attract needed financing.
- O Los Angeles Business Assistance Program provides training, instruction and technical assistance to clients of the City of Los Angeles Business Assistance Program, specifically targeting the Entrepreneur/ Microenterprises component in South Los Angeles. Partners include: Los Angeles Urban League WorkSource CA, Los Angeles LDC, Inc., Operations Hope, Inc., Brotherhood Crusade, and West Angeles Community Development Center.
- <u>Caltrans: California Construction Contracting Program (CCCP)</u>
 This program is designed to develop and improve capabilities of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and to assist them in achieving proficiency in the technical skills involved in highway construction.
- o <u>Small Business Administration Grant</u> provides funding for the SBDC to render service to small business owners in the areas of technical and business management assistance to include 1) loan packaging assistance, 2) legal issues, 3) marketing, 4) procurement, 5) start up and expansion.
- <u>California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office/SBDC</u> grant mirrors the Small Business Administration (SBA) grant and is used as "cash match" because the SBA grant requires that each dollar provided is matched dollar for dollar (cash or in-kind).
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office/Youth Entrepreneur grant provides 14-27 youth/young adults with an opportunity to pursue entrepreneurism as an alternative to working for employers. The grant provides certificate training, mentorship, outreach activities, and business plan/website design contests within the program. Compton Educational Center and high schools will benefit from this program.



- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office/Caltrans Construction Contracting Program provides Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises sub-contractors and those who qualify as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the City of Compton an opportunity to receive construction and business management counseling and training to build capacity to become bid-ready to contract with Caltrans and those primes already contracting with Caltrans.
- O Small Business Mentor Protégé Program. The Business Training Center funds the Small Business Mentor Protégé Program in the City of Compton, which includes on-site, one-on-one technical and business counseling at the WorkSource Center in Compton, Certificate training course for small business owners to ensure they have a completed business plan and a working knowledge of every component in their business operations, as well as individual workshops that address business structures, access to capital, and marketing for small businesses.

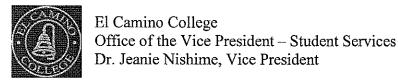
5. Workforce Development

The Workforce Development area is comprised of the following programs:

- <u>VTEA</u> the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act provides an increased focus on the academic achievement of career and technical education students; strengthens the connections between secondary and postsecondary education and improves state and local accountability.
- O Tech Prep education is an articulated, planned sequence of study beginning in high school, and extending through at least two years of postsecondary education or an apprenticeship program. Tech Prep is an important school-to-work transition strategy.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares students for employment (Entry Pathway) or for future education (Skilled and Professional Pathways) in a career major or concentration. Thirty-three (33) occupational programs are offered at El Camino College. Employee recruiters recruit off campus and matriculate students into the Women in Technology (WIT) and Career & Technical Education programs.



- O Los Angeles/OC Regional Consortium, Career Pathways is a coordination grant offered through the California Department of Education. El Camino College Career and Technical Education program collaborates with Citrus College and other community colleges to provide the following: Development of curriculum with high schools, Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) and college representatives; use and develop WorkKeys for skills assessment for participant pathway to business and industry partners.
- O Women in Industry and Technology program is designed to conduct and provide support services to women to facilitate their successful participation and completion of "non-traditional" career programs within Career and Technical Education. Services include high school outreach programs, child care for women enrolled in Career and Technical Education classes, counseling, tutoring, peer support, career tours and job placement assistance. "Tool Kits" and Scholarships for WIT Participants provide WIT participants with books, equipment, uniform, boots, etc.
- California WomenTech Extension Services Project serves the California Community College system to increase the participation of women in technology education programs. The Institute provides services for Women in Trades, Technology and Science in Alameda, California in collaboration with the City of San Francisco.
- O Career Placement Services provides services for students, alumni and the business community including full-time/part-time employment, internships (paid and unpaid), career fairs and expos, employment workshops on resume writing and interviewing skills, and a computerized placement lab.
- o <u>Foster and Kinship Care Training</u> provides classes to foster parents, relative caregivers, foster children and potential/adoptive parents. Staff provides emancipation training for young adults, ages 14-19, in the areas of self-help skills, self-esteem, decision- making, and employment.
- El Camino College Language Academy provides an academic, intensive English language program in order to prepare students to take and pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) which is needed for acceptance at most higher education institutions.



6. Workplace Learning Resource Center (WpLRC) is funded by the Chancellor's Office as part of their Economic and Workforce Development program. The WpLRC provides Basic Skills Vocational English as a Second Language, teamwork, leadership, hospitality, employment-related assessments and other training and services to businesses and organizations as well as for incumbent workers, unemployed and underemployed workers. The area of service includes LAX, Inglewood, Compton, and the Alameda Corridor to the Port of Los Angeles

Additional projects associated with the WpLRC are:

- Career Readiness Certificate. The Work Ready Certificate program, changed to the Career Readiness Certificate, responds to requests of the aerospace/manufacturing industry in the South Bay of Los Angeles. The employability certificate represents a standardized and reliable indicator of workplace skill levels that can be used in businesses throughout the region. The Certificate will provide a bridge between job applicants, incumbent workers, educators, training organizations, and area businesses.
- O Beverage Equipment Service Technician (BEST) Program implements specific training and certification needs of the Specialty Coffee Industry through on-line training and certification provided to existing technicians and individuals interested in a career as a coffee service technician.
- Mariner Skill Training Program: (STCW) is designed to provide training in Basic Safety and Tankerman STCW curriculum as both incumbent trainees and entry-level workers demonstrate a consistent need for remediation in basic math, reading and communication skills. The maritime industry participates by paying tuition for employees to attend the training, and also paying the incumbent worker's full salary for the duration of the training.
- California Transportation and Logistics Institute provides services through eight community colleges, three California State Universities, and two unified school districts. The project supports the development of industry-recognized programs; the expansion of faculty in-service training; linkages with university logistics degree programs to promote an educational continuum; training of new and incumbent workers for the logistics industry; and dissemination of replicable products to other regions in the state and the nation. The El Camino College Business Training Center is one of 12 partners in the project.

----Original Message----

From: Fallo, Thomas

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 4:58 PM

To: Gen, Ray; 'Bill Beverly'; Combs, Mary; Jackson, Nate

Subject: RE: Brown Act - Open Meetings

i do not believe anyone has violated the brown act either.....and my notes are simply cautionary

two points which i believe everyone would agree are important:

- 1. do the public's business in public
- 2. all board members should have the opportunity to participate in the discussion and receive the information

best way to do this is in the public board meeting

the part of the attachment that startled me was the caution about individual board member briefings---not per se violations, but possible depending on the content and responses of some simple questions

the other issue is simple---at least one of our trustees does not use email and the student trustee was not part of the disucssion

thomas m fallo superintendent/president el camino community college district 16007 crenshaw blvd. torrance, ca 90506 310.660.3111

fax: 310.660.6067 tfallo@elcamino.edu

----Original Message----

From: Gen, Ray

Sent: Monday, March 03, 2008 11:47 PM

To: Fallo, Thomas; 'Bill Beverly'; Combs, Mary; Jackson, Nate

Subject: RE: Brown Act - Open Meetings

Dear Colleagues,

I believe this is in reference to a few emails about possibly having a future meeting or the possibility of a board retreat. Is this so Dr. Fallo? If so, I truly appreciate your efforts to keeps us totally above reproach. No one here is interested in crossing the Brown Act line.

However, I do not believe we have violated the Brown Act. Is sending emails about the possibility of meeting a violation? We have done no business; neither have we made any agreements nor pacts. We have merely discussed the possible need for a possible future meeting.

I don't think the Brown Act prohibits public officials from having contact with each other, serially or otherwise. The Brown Act's purpose is simply to prevent the conduct of business without the knowledge of the general public.

But perhaps I am too naive. Perhaps currently accepted practice is to shut down all communications between public officials except in official public forums. - Is this email that I'm writing a violation? I do not believe that it is.

In any case, I appreciate Dr. Fallo's efforts in keeping us out of hot water.

Ray

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Ray Gen, Ed.D.

ECC Board of Trustees

From: Gen, Ray

Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2008 10:25 AM **To:** Jackson, Nate; Fallo, Thomas; Mary Combs

Cc: Beverly, William Subject: RE: Questions Trustee Jackson and my fellow colleauges,

I am very open to a meeting or an email correspondence of any method for the discussion of topics which are of interests to us as a board or individually. A healthy exchange of ideas would be good for us. Hence my suggestion last time of a collective bargaining topic open-air discussion.

We each meet with different constituents and stakeholders who have concerns and questions. We should have more healthy discussions. I think we all would like to avoid coming to a board meeting and being presented with ideas or proposals that we have not had time to consider thoughtfully.

If not a board retreat, then we should correspond regularly via email or some other means. I think we get along well and the process has worked well, but I also think we can become even more effective as a body.

Your colleague,

Ray

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Ray Gen, Ed.D. ECC Board of Trustees

----Original Message----

From: Jackson, Nate

Sent: Thu 2/28/2008 1:49 AM To: Fallo, Thomas; Mary Combs Cc: Gen, Ray; Beverly, William

Subject: RE: Questions

(TelePhone/Written) Trustee Maureen O' Donnell, Student Trustee

On Wednesday prior to the Chancellors Meeting, I spoke with President Mary Combs re. adding informational items for study and clarification. We spoke about her illness and a possible need for surgery; I questioned the need or the apparent interest in participating in a "board retreat" to understand more clearly how administrative decisions are made and the proper role and responsibilities of Trustees in the long and short range planning

process during a fiscal crisis or challenge. I added my interest in reviewing with President Fallo, what appears to be costly rental fees and questionable student attendance for the Inglewood Center.

Since visits, reviews and reports by appropriate staff have been completed, it is now my wish to review the reports and to accept an invitation offered by Mayor Dorn of Inglewood, President Fallo and me, and other Trustees, to address alternative sites that may be less expensive (long range) while offering greater permanency for El Camino College in this northern part of our district and thereby reducing rental costs (short range), while offering needed services and training for a rapidly changing multiculural community.

It is my intent to communicate with each Trustee at the earlist possible time.

From: Fallo, Thomas

Sent: Wed 2/27/2008 5:17 PM

To: Mary Combs Cc: Jackson, Nate

Subject: RE: Questions

i believe you should speak with maureen o'donnell and nate jackson and explain your situation....trustees are usually very receptive to accommodations

agenda development can be at the board meeting or with me----i always prefer to have more involved with that development.....at the last meeting trustee gen spoke of a session about collective bargaining--no one else supported that recommendation....i would have to have more information about "a workshop of some kind involving budget"

naturally if we get more requests you may also need to develop a priority listing of requests....staff is fully committed to operating the college district and may have to give up doing some activity to satisfy board requests

i also recall that trustee o'donnell made requests for four 'reports' at the last meeting

thomas m fallo superintendent/president el camino community college district 16007 crenshaw blvd. torrance, ca 90506 310.660.3111

fax: 310.660.6067 tfallo@elcamino.edu

From: Mary Combs [mailto:mary combs@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 4:31 PM

To: Fallo, Thomas Cc: Jackson, Nate Subject: Questions

Tom,

I was wondering about the seating arrangement at the Board Meeting. Since my right ear is the good ear, Maureen's voice distracts others voices, and I find it hard to follow the meeting. I would like to switch Nate Jackson with Maureen O'Donnell. How do we handle this?

Also, if there is an issue that is not on then agenda, how do we have it put on the agenda. I was talking to Nate this morning, he was talking about a workshop of some kind regarding the budget. This is something I feel strongly about and would like to know the best way to bring it to the board.

Hope all went well with the Chancellor's luncheon today.

Mary

Serial meetings

One of the most frequently asked questions about the Brown Act involves serial meetings. Such meetings at any one time involve only a portion of a legislative body, but eventually involve a majority.

There may be nothing improper about the substance of a serial meeting. The problem is the process, which deprives the public of an opportunity for meaningful participation in legislative body decision making.

The serial meeting may be a daisy-chain in which Member A contacts Member B, Member B contacts Member C, Member C contacts Member D and so on, until a quorum and collective concurrence has been established. A hub-and-spoke process in which, for example, a local agency attorney (the hub) telephones members of a redevelopment agency (the spokes) one by one for a decision on a proposed action, or in which a chief executive briefs board members prior to a formal meeting and, in the process, reveals information about the members respective views, also violates the Brown Act.

A member has the right, if not the duty, to meet with constituents to address their grievances. That member also has the right to confer with a colleague about local agency business. But if in that process a "collective concurrence as to action to be taken" is reached among a majority, the Brown Act has been violated. In one case, a violation occurred when a quorum of a city council directed staff by letter on an eminent domain action.⁸

On the other hand, a unilateral written communication to the legislative body, such as an informational or advisory memorandum, does not violate the Brown Act. Such a memo, however, may be a public record. 10

The phone call was from a lobbyist. "Say, I need your vote for that project in the south area. How about it?"

Well, I dunno," replied Board Member Adams.
"That's kind of a sticky proposition. You sure you need my vote?"

"Well, I've got Baker and Charles lined up and another vote leaning. With you I'd be over the top..."

Moments later, the phone rings again. "Hey, I've been hearing some rumbles on that south area project," said the newspaper reporter. "I'm counting noses. How are you voting on it?"

Neither the lobbyist nor the reporter has done anything wrong. But the board member may have violated the Brown Act by hearing about the positions of other board members. The prudent course is to try to stop lobbyists, staff and news media from revealing such positions of others.

The mayor sat down across from the city manager. "From now on," he declared, "I want you to provide individual briefings on upcoming agenda items.

"Some of this material is very technical, and the council members don't want to sound like idiots asking about it in public. Besides that, briefings will speed up the meeting."

The Brown Act may or may not prohibit such briefings. The Attorney General concludes that staff briefings are per se illegal. That point of view notwithstanding, the consensus among local agency attorneys is that staff briefings of legislative body members are allowed if staff is not used as a conduit for achieving collective concurrence, and if during the briefing staff does not disclose the views and positions of other members. Members should be cautious about discussions about local agency business with developers, advocates, or opponents and proponents on issues if such discussions could achieve a collective concurrence.

"Thanks for the information," said Council Member Smith. "These zoning changes can be tricky, and now I think I'm better equipped to make the right decision."

"Glad to be of assistance," replied the planning director. "Any idea what the other council members think of the problem?"

The planning director should not ask, and the member should not answer. A one-on-one meeting that involves a member of a legislative body takes a step toward collective concurrence if either person reveals or discusses the views of other members.

INFORMAL GATHERINGS

Often members are tempted to mix business with pleasure—for example, by holding a post meeting gathering. Informal gatherings at which local agency business is discussed or transacted are meetings under the Brown Act. ¹² A luncheon gathering in a crowded dining room violates the Brown Act if the public does not have an adequate opportunity to hear or participate in the deliberations of members.

Thursday, 11:30 a.m. As they did every week, the board of directors of Dry Gulch Irrigation District trooped into Pop's Donut Shoppe for an hour of talk and fellowship. They sat at the corner window, fronting on Main and Broadway, to show they nothing to hide. Whenever he could, the managing editor of the weekly newspsper down the street hurried over to join the board...

A gathering like this would not violate the Brown Act if board members scrupulously avoided talking about irrigation district issues. But it is the kind of situation that should be avoided. The public is unlikely to believe the board members could meet regularly without discussing public business. A newspaper executive's presence in no way lessens the potential for a violation of the Brown Act.

Technological conferencing

The Brown Act has been amended in 1994, 1997 and 1998 to allow local agencies to use information age technologies to conduct meetings.¹³

The Brown Act now specifically allows a legislative body to use any type of teleconferencing to receive public comment, testimony, to deliberate or conduct a closed session.¹⁴

"Teleconference" is defined as "a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both." In addition to the specific requirements relating to teleconferencing, the meeting must comply with all provisions of the Brown Act otherwise applicable. The Brown Act contains the following specific requirements: 16

- Teleconferencing may be used for all purposes during any meeting.
- At least a quorum of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the local agency's jurisdiction.
- Additional teleconference locations may be made available for the public.

- Each teleconference location must be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.
- Agendas must be posted at each teleconference location.
- Each teleconference location must be accessible to the public.
- The agenda must provide the opportunity for the public to address the legislative body directly at each teleconference location.
- · All votes must be by roll call.

The use of teleconferencing to conduct a legislative body meeting presents a variety of new issues beyond the scope of this booklet to discuss in detail. Therefore, before teleconferencing a meeting, legal counsel for the local agency should be consulted.

- Meet in or nearby a facility owned by the agency, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the facility.
- Visit the office of its legal counsel for a closed session on pending litigation, when to do so would reduce legal fees or costs.¹⁸

In addition, the governing board of a school or community college district may hold meetings outside of its boundaries to attend a conference on nonadversarial collective bargaining techniques, interview candidates for school district superintendent, or interview a potential employee from another district. A board may also interview members of the public residing in another district if the board is considering employing that district's superintendent.

Similarly, meetings of a joint powers authority can occur within the territory of at least one of its member agencies, and a joint powers authority with members throughout the state may meet anywhere in the state.²⁰

Finally, if a fire, flood, earthquake or other emergency makes the usual meeting place unsafe, the presiding officer can designate another meeting place for the duration of the emergency. News media which have requested notice of meetings must be notified of the designation by the most rapid means of communication available.²¹

Twenty Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- 1. The agency's web-site includes a chat room where agency employees and officials participate anonymously and often discuss issues of local agency business. Members of the legislative body participate regularly. Does this scenario present a potential for violation of the Brown Act? Yes, because it is a technological device that may serve to allow for the development of a collective concurrence as to action to be taken.
- 2. A member of the legislative body contacts two other members on a five-member body relative to scheduling a special meeting. Is this an illegal serial meeting? No, the Brown Act expressly allows this kind of communication, though the members should avoid discussing the merits of what is to be taken up at the meeting.
- 3. The local chamber of commerce sponsors an open and public candidate debate during an election campaign. Three of the five agency members are up for re-election and all three participate. All of the candidates are asked their views of a controversial project scheduled for a meeting to occur just after the election. May the three incumbents answer the question? Yes, because the incumbents should not be constrained from participating in the political process as any other candidate.
- 4. The entire legislative body intends to travel to Sacramento to testify against a bill before the Senate Local Government Committee. Must this activity be noticed as a meeting of the body? No, because the members are attending and participating in an open meeting of another governmental body to which the public may attend.
- 5. The members in question #4 then proceed upstairs to the office of their local assemblyperson to discuss issues of local interest. Must this session be noticed as a meeting and be open to the public? Yes, because the entire body may not meet behind closed doors except for proper closed sessions.
- A member on vacation desires to participate in a meeting of the legislative body and vote by cellular phone from her car while driving

- from Washington, D.C. to New York. May she? She probably may participate, but she may not vote because she is not in a noticed and posted teleconference location.
- 7. The agency has won a major victory in the Supreme Court on an issue of importance. The presiding officer decides to hold an impromptu press conference at city hall in order to make a statement to the print and broadcast media. All the other members show up in order to make statements of their own and be seen by the media. Is this gathering illegal? Technically there is no exception for this sort of gathering, but as long as members do not state their intentions as to future action to be taken by the council and the press conference is open to the public, it seems harmless.
- 8. The agency is considering approving a major retail mall. The developer has built other similar malls, and invites the entire legislative body to visit a mall outside the jurisdiction. May the entire body go? Yes, the Brown Act permits meetings outside the boundaries of the agency for specified reasons and inspection of property is one such reason. The field trip must be treated as a meeting and the public must be able to attend.
- 9. The legislative body wants to hold a team-building session to improve relations among its members. May such a session be conducted behind closed doors? No, this is not a proper subject for a closed session, and there is no other basis to exclude the public. Council relations are a matter of public business.
- 10. A member of the legislative body informally establishes an advisory committee of five residents to advise her on issues as they arise. Is this committee covered by the Brown Act? No, because the committee has not been established by formal action of the legislative body.
- 11. On the morning following the election to a five-member legislative body of a local agency, the three successful candidates, none incumbents, meet for a celebratory breakfast. Does this violate the Brown Act? It might, and absolutely would if the conversation turns to



- agency business. Even though not officially sworn in, the Brown Act applies to these individuals. If purely a social event, there is no violation but it would be preferable if others were invited to attend to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
- 12. The legislative body establishes a standing committee of two of its five members, which meets monthly. A third member of the legislative body wants to attend these meetings and participate. May she? She may attend, but only as an observer; she may not participate.
- 13. The agenda for a regular meeting of the legislative body contains the following item of business under New Business:
- "Consideration of a report regarding traffic on Eighth Street."
- Is this description adequate? If it is, it is barely adequate. A better description would provide the reader with some idea of what the report is about, and what is being recommended.
- 14. The agenda always includes an opportunity for the "Chief Executive Officer's Report," during which time the officer provides a brief report on notable topics of interest, none of which are listed on the agenda. Is this permissible? Yes, as long as it does not result in legislative body discussion or action.
- 15. Must the legislative body allow members of the public to show videos during the "audience participation" part of the agenda, as long as the subject matter is relevant to the agency and is within the established time limit?

 Probably, though the agency is under no obligation to provide equipment.

- 16. May the presiding officer prohibit a member of the audience from publicly criticizing an agency employee by name during audience comments? No, as long as the criticism pertains to job performance.
- 17. During the audience comment period of a regular meeting of the legislative body, a resident urges the public to support and vote for a candidate vying for election to the body. May the presiding officer gavel the speaker out of order for engaging in political campaign speech? No, for Brown Act purposes, the speech is relevant to the governing of the agency and an implicit criticism of the incumbents.
- 18. May the legislative body agree to settle a lawsuit in a properly noticed closed session, without placing the settlement agreement on an open session agenda for public approval? Yes, but the settlement agreement is a public document and must be disclosed on request.
- 19. May the lawyer for someone suing the agency attend a closed session in order to explain to the legislative body why it should accept a settlement offer? No, attendance in closed sessions is reserved exclusively to the agency's advisors.
- 20. Must 24 hours' notice be given to an employee whose negative performance evaluation is to be considered by the legislative body in closed session? No, the notice is reserved for situations where the body is to hear complaints and charges from witnesses.

OFFIC PULL

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South Bay's own 'Idol' leaps past 1st hurdles

By Larry Altman, Staff Writer

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Inglewood's Chikezie performs on American Idol on Feb. 19.

Chikezie's orange suit for 1960s night didn't sit too well with Simon Cowell. Neither did his song choice: "I Love You More Today than Yesterday."

"I absolutely hated the whole performance," said Cowell, the cranky "American Idol" judge after the Inglewood man performed on the hit show last week.

"I'll tell you why. The suit is hideous. The wink was hideous. The woo was hideous. It was all old-fashioned cheesy corny."

But for fans of the 22-year-old El Camino College student, everything was perfect when Chikezie - full name Chikezie Eze - sang his first song as one of the top 24 contestants on the hit Fox television show.

"I think he's got an amazing talent," said Joanna Medawar Nachef, director of chorale activities at the South Bay community college. "We are all excited about this. He's got stage presence. He has an amazing range in his voice - deep, high and floating."

Chikezie will get another chance to perform Tuesday. He survived the first cuts, earning enough votes from the public to continue as one of the remaining 10 men in the megahit talent show.

In a couple of weeks, six men and six women will compete for the title on a show that has catapulted unknowns like Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood into superstardom.

Other contestants who didn't in the title also became stars, including Chris

Daughtry, "Dreamgirls" Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson and Clay Aiken, starring on Broadway in "Spamalot."

Chikezie, a member of the El Camino chorale since 2006, tried out for "American Idol" last year and rose to among the top 50 contestants "going to Hollywood!" for auditions.

That was as far as he got.

Cowell and fellow judges Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson bumped him from the show.

Nachef, whose chorale was performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City at the time, invited Chikezie to rejoin the 85 singers on stage.

"That was a good trade, don't you think?" Nachef said. "Chikezie was featured in the gospel piece. It was an amazing warm response that people gave."

Fellow chorale singer Rodney Rose said Chikezie was a big hit in New York.

"He sang in this trio and it was standing ovation for him," Rose said. "He sang this gospel song and it was just unbelievable. He's got a real big, big voice."

Chikezie, a screener with the Transportation Security Administration at Los Angeles International Airport, returned to school and continued singing. Nachef said he applied for individual instruction, receiving private voice coaching.

"He really was quite advanced and you could tell he was interested in all genres of music and could do it well," Nachef said. "I think he is quite good at all of them."

He has performed at the Marsee Auditorium at El Camino College and the James Armstrong Theatre in Torrance.

A Fox publicist said the contestants are not available for interviews. In a video shown on television before his first performance, Chikezie said he returned home after his ouster from Idol last year and worked hard to try again.

This time he made it to the top 24, and now is among the top 20.

"I came back more than ready," he said. "Finally someone recognizes the work that

I put in. It feels good when somebody recognizes your work."

Although Cowell's criticism of his first performance was tough, Jackson and Abdul were more encouraging.

Jackson said Chikezie looked like an "old-fashioned singer," but he liked the voice.

"It was pretty good, man," Jackson said. "You can definitely sing. It was all right."

Abdul called him a throwback to great rhythm and blues singers of the past.

"Nothing makes me happier to see you on this stage," she said. "You are here. You look great. ... Your smile is infectious."

Abdul's comments appeared in line with Chikezie's tastes. On the American Idol Web site, he lists his favorite singers as Donny Hathaway, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, John Legend and Sam and Dave.

Rose said Chikezie's decision to drop his last name makes him memorable and could bring him a few votes.

"It's kind of catchy," he said. "I think when you have the one name thing, people know you. They aren't going to forget you."

Nachef said she feels like a protective mother when anyone criticizes her student, especially when the negativity is about his suit and not his singing.

The chorale director and Chikezie's fans at El Camino will watch closely this week, rooting him on and hoping he can become a star.

"I really feel to have him this far and have him exposed this way should be an amazing experience for him," she said. "You can invite people to vote for him. This is our own kid from the South Bay."

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Sacbee.com

Schwarzenegger orders hiring freeze

By Judy Lin - jlin@sacbee.com

Last Updated 12:58 pm PST Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday signed an executive order freezing state hiring and halting nonessential service contracts - a move he said could save the cash-strapped state \$100 million by June 30.

Schwarzenegger issued the order on the heels of a \$2 billion midyear budget reduction to deal with the state's projected \$14.5 billion deficit. The governor also urged the Democratic-led Legislature to immediately begin working on more cuts for the 2008-09 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Schwarzenegger resisted calls by Democratic leaders to balance the state's shortfall through a combination of cuts and taxes.

"Every day we wait, we're going to have to make more cuts," the governor said. "There are some people in (the Capitol) that think if they can wait and wait and push it to the end ... then that will make us raise taxes."

"But they're making a big mistake."

Schwarzenegger's executive order, which takes effect immediately, calls for canceling or postponing state employees' discretionary travel to conferences, seminars or training sessions.

It directs all agency secretaries and department directors to reduce, cancel or postpone buying equipment and discourages them from conducting outreach campaigns.

Schwarzenegger said the cuts will apply to his office, although it may not affect his own travel expenses.

"For me, personally, I pay for a lot of it myself so I don't have to worry about those things," Schwarzenegger said.

The governor said he's trying to restrain state spending, but hiring freezes haven't always worked.

Then-Gov. Gray Davis imposed a hiring freeze in October 2001. But a 2002 Bee analysis found that the state was still employing about 1,800 new workers a month after Davis' freeze began.

Under Schwarzenegger's tenure, state government has grown by nearly 10,000 despite early efforts to clamp down on hiring. The state had 225,818 permanent and temporary workers in November 2004. It now has 235,323, according to the latest data from the controller's office.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Tuesday, March 04, 2008

Fears and Administrative Hassles Deter Community-College Students in Their First Term, They Say

By ELYSE ASHBURN

Several students told a crowd here on Monday that complications with financial aid, doubts about whether they were college material, and concerns that they wouldn't fit in on a campus almost kept them from attending community college. But once the students made it through the door, they said, their experiences were largely positive.

"It was just so hard for me to get into college," Izeal Hill said at a packed session at the annual conference of the League for Innovation in the Community College.

When Mr. Hill, 26, first tried to enroll at the Community College of Denver, he thought a community group was going to be paying his way. But when he showed up for class, he found out he still owed all his tuition. Mr. Hill immediately filed for financial aid and was told his application would take two months to process. So he had to sit out a semester and see his roommate go off to college day after day.

Mr. Hill's fiancée, Teresa Joseph, had a similar experience. The first time she applied for financial aid at the Community College of Denver, the paperwork didn't make it through in time for her to enroll. So she applied again for the next semester.

"Well," she said, "there are three Teresa Josephs on campus," and her application got mixed up with one of the other Teresas.

Ms. Joseph, 27, almost gave up, but Mr. Hill insisted that she go to college. And she got the paperwork snafu resolved just in time to enroll that semester.

Mr. Hill and Ms. Joseph, along with two other Community College of Denver students, shared their stories as part of a session on the struggles that students go through in their first semester—and, in many cases, before they even attend a class. The session also previewed a few findings from the new Survey of Entering Student Engagement, or Sense, which was administered for the first time this fall at 22 colleges across the country.

New Survey of Entering Students

The survey, which is an offshoot of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (*The Chronicle*. November 16, 2007), found that first-semester students were less engaged than returning students on several key measures. They were less likely to ask questions in class or

contribute to discussions, to work with other students on a project or assignment, or to discuss an assignment or grade with an instructor.

One reason for that pattern, the Denver students indicated, is an initial concern that they don't fit in on the campus or in the classroom. Adam Aberle, 46, was particularly worried that he would be singled out because he has a disability—so he didn't tell the college about it.

"I was nervous anyway because I was an older student," Mr. Aberle said. "And I thought that if I told them about my disability, it would make it even worse." Instead, he simply struggled. "The first semester was horrible," he said.

Mr. Aberle, who works part time and has seven children, said he finally felt at home on the campus in his second semester, after he told the college about his disability and met other students—namely Mr. Hill—who made him feel comfortable. All four students agreed that forging relationships with other students and administrators, particularly in student life, helped keep them in college.

That consensus is backed up by survey data and focus groups run as part of the Sense project, said Arleen Arnsparger, a Sense researcher and project manager of the MetLife Foundation Initiative on Student Success. The survey also found that 41 percent of entering students said they didn't use academic planning or advising at all in their first semester.

That finding makes a good case for requiring students to see an adviser before they register, said Angela Oriano-Darnall, project coordinator for Sense. But short of doing that, the Denver students said, having experienced students spread the word about the benefits of advising, rather than using fliers or e-mail, was key to getting their peers to actually show up.

"If that fails," Mr. Hill said, "use pizza."

Los Angeles Times

http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-muni29feb29,1,6650142.story?ctrack=2&cset=true

From the Los Angeles Times

FINANCE

State, preparing to borrow, faces cold market for munis

Tax-free bonds attract few buyers amid risk fears and tight credit By Tom Petruno Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

February 29, 2008

The credit crunch is taking a heavier toll on the municipal bond market, a favored sector for individual investors. Yields on tax-free muni bonds surged Thursday for the 12th straight session as many buyers stayed away. That's bad news for California, which plans to sell bonds next week to raise \$1.75 billion for infrastructure projects.

The annualized yield on an index of 40 long-term muni issues nationwide tracked by the Bond Buyer newspaper jumped to 5.33% on Thursday, up from 5.20% on Wednesday and the highest since 2002. The yield has rocketed from 4.74% five weeks ago. A Bloomberg News index of 20-year California general obligation bonds sported a yield of 5.16% on Thursday, up from 4.63% five weeks ago.

Bond yields rise as the market prices of the securities drop -- a sign that investors are balking at putting their money into the issues. In many cases, muni yields are above what taxable U.S. Treasury issues pay, an unusual occurrence. A 30-year Treasury bond pays about 4.51%.

Yet "there are very few buyers out there now" for munis, said Bob Fields, an expert on the market at bond giant Pacific Investment Management Co. in Newport Beach. The normally low-key muni market, where states, cities and other municipalities borrow to fund their operations, has suffered a series of punches since late last year that have left investors wary.

The first punch was financial trouble at major bond insurance firms, which guarantee about half the muni market nationwide. With those companies reeling from losses on mortgage-backed bonds they insured, some investors have wondered whether the insurance the firms provide on muni bonds could become worthless. Wall Street has been waiting on a plan by big banks to bolster the finances of one leading insurer, Ambac Financial Group, but it isn't clear whether a deal will be reached. More recently, the muni market has been upended by turmoil in subsets of tax-free issues known as auction-rate

bonds and variable-rate demand notes, two types of floating-rate securities that had been popular with yield-hungry investors. With buyers now scarce, particularly for floating-rate issues guaranteed by struggling insurers, most of the weekly or monthly auctions used to reset yields on the securities are failing to attract enough new money. That leaves current investors stuck with them or causes the bonds to be dumped on banks -- and triggers higher; "penalty" interest rates for the issuers.

On Thursday the California Department of Water Resources had to pay an annualized 5.44% on \$47 million of auction-rate securities that reset every 35 days, up from the previous rate of 4%, according to the state treasurer's office.

Many muni bond analysts emphasize that the main problem facing the market is excess supply at a time when nervous investors are conserving cash. Supply and demand are "deeply out of balance" in the muni market nationwide, according to a recent report from Municipal Market Advisors, a Concord, Mass.-based research firm.

That's a far different problem from that plaguing the market for mortgage-backed bonds, which has crumbled because a rising number of homeowners are delinquent. In the muni market, the vast majority of issuers aren't having trouble paying what they owe investors. Historically, very few muni issuers have defaulted on their bonds.

Still, default worries may grow as the economy weakens, some analysts caution. The result could be that investors demand even higher yields on muni bonds to compensate for a perceived increase in risk, said Jim Lynch, head of Lynch Municipal Bond Advisory in New York. "There should be no rush to buy here," he said.

The city council of Vallejo, Calif., had planned to vote late Thursday on whether to file for bankruptcy protection because its employee-benefit costs are soaring even as tax revenue declines. The vote was put off after officials said they had reached a tentative deal with their major unions. Even high-quality muni issuers that have no credit problems may pay more if they borrow soon, simply because of the heavy supply of bonds expected to hit the market.

Many issuers that have auction-rate bonds or variable-rate demand notes outstanding are planning to pay off those securities with cash raised from sales of plain-vanilla bonds. The state's Department of Water Resources, for example, expects to refinance up to \$1.8 billion of floating-rate debt because of the turmoil in the market. That could mean higher bills for power consumers over time, depending on the cost of the fixed-rate bonds.

In Sacramento, state Treasurer Bill Lockyer intends to proceed with next week's planned sale of general obligation debt, said Paul Rosenstiel, head of public finance. Although the state may have to pay higher yields on the bonds than it would like, "we have a need to get into the market because we have a lot of projects to build," Rosenstiel said, noting the numerous infrastructure programs approved by voters in recent years. "We have a chedule, and we're probably going to stick with it," he said. tom.petruno@latimes.com

Sacbee.com

School budgets squeezed

Battle begins to limit losses

By Laurel Rosenhall - <u>lrosenhall@sacbee.com</u>

Published 12:00 am PST Friday, February 29, 2008

Laying off teachers, school bus drivers, librarians and counselors. Adding more kids to every classroom. Charging students fees to play sports. Getting rid of music.

In e-mails and newsletters, during board meetings and rallies, school districts across California are telling parents that they have to do these things – and more – because of budget cuts proposed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Today they'll say it again during a news conference at Valley High School, where leaders from Sacramento's biggest school districts will join the state superintendent to blast Schwarzenegger's proposal to slash \$4 billion from next year's K-12 education budget. It's part of a budget-bashing tour Superintendent Jack O'Connell is making around California.

Lawmakers in the Capitol know the governor's January budget proposal is just a starting point for political negotiations. The budget battle could stretch months beyond a July 1 deadline before lawmakers and the governor reach a final deal.

But school boards are on a different calendar. They must figure out this spring how to pay for next school year. And with an especially bleak budget picture and proposals to cut education funding by 10 percent, the calendar clash this year is more powerful than usual.

"The irony is that the more difficult the state budget is, the longer it takes legislators to resolve it. But in the meantime, we suffer the consequences," said Steve Enoch, superintendent of the San Juan Unified School District, which is considering cuts of more than \$5 million from its \$396 million budget.

"It is quite an issue for public education."

By March 15, school districts must issue preliminary layoff notices to administrators and teachers they may not be able to employ in the fall. The pink slips aren't final – they can be rescinded in May if the budget situation improves.

Still, the deadlines mean that even while politicians are months away from agreeing on a final budget, school districts must start their slashing now.

"It's going to be tough for these school boards," said Rick Pratt, assistant executive director of the California School Boards Association.

"They're going to want to be sure to issue enough of these layoff notices to cover themselves. ... But at the same time, the impact on morale is something I'm sure they would want to avoid."

Across the state, districts have already given layoff notices to at least 5,000 teachers, according to the California Teachers Association. Many, many more are expected in the next two weeks, said union President David Sanchez.

The alarm bells and panic memos coming from the state's educators reflect more than just a timing problem. They reflect the politics involved in paying for schools in California, said Paul Warren, an education expert in the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

"This is the time of the process where they're out there telling people how bad this situation is for them," Warren said.

"They can't just say, 'We know it's going to get better, so just lay low and let it blow over.' Part of the whole process is they have to make a fuss. They have to stand up for themselves."

Budget panic has become an annual routine for the people who run California's public schools. But the urgency is much greater this year because of the size of the cuts that have been proposed, Warren said.

His office has offered an alternative to Schwarzenegger's call to reduce state spending by 10 percent across the board. The legislative analyst suggests cutting education by about \$2 billion, instead of the \$4 billion the governor proposed.

The Education Coalition – which includes administrator and school board groups, employee unions and the Parent Teacher Association – isn't crazy about that plan either.

"It's right between where the governor would fund us and where we would be funded if there were no cuts," said Pratt, of the school boards association.

"It still would result in very deep cuts at the local level."

He said the solution to the state's budget woes is not to take money from schools but to put more money into the state's coffers through taxes and fees.

Whether it's politicking or responsible budgeting, school districts statewide are now making noise about the massive cuts they're considering for next year.

In Yolo County, boosters of the Davis elementary school music program have sent out emotional e-mails, urging parents to lobby the school board to protect the \$200,000 program as they consider \$4 million in cuts.

The dozen districts in Sacramento County are trying to shear \$85 million from their 2008-09 budgets to meet Schwarzenegger's goal. That means losing about 600 teachers and other workers, increasing class sizes and cutting many services. School bus routes, summer school offerings and music, art and sports programs are all at risk.

- Elk Grove Unified may lay off 134 teachers, increase class size in kindergarten and ninth grade, spend \$1.2 million less on textbooks and reduce summer school offerings.
- San Juan Unified is considering laying off 126 teachers and about 19 other staff, reducing athletic offerings by one-fourth and holding off on the replacement of aging school buses.
- Natomas Unified could delay the opening of a new school and reducing the use of substitute teachers.
- Folsom Cordova Unified would let go of 156 teachers, increase class size in all grades and eliminate bus service to high schools.

Even if cuts that big don't become a reality, the threat of them causes terrible instability for school systems, said David Gordon, superintendent of Sacramento County schools. He said he helped plan today's news conference because he wants the public to understand what schools are up against.

"You don't want to cry wolf but you want to be very clear: cuts of this magnitude are very bad," Gordon said.

"While the Governor and the Legislature merrily wait on through July and August, we have to run the railroad. You have to execute the cuts in order to keep the system running."

OCRegister.com

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Man who died trying to help cat was experienced climber

BY MARIA CHERCOLES

ORANGE – Scott Buehler was familiar with rescuing and climbing – he was trained to rescue people from houses in flames and hiked Bear Mountain.

And he had a soft spot, too.

Wednesday afternoon, the 27-year-old Buehler climbed up a 50-foot Cypress tree to save a stranded, meowing cat, fell 35 to 40 feet and died.

A foreman at USS Cal Builders, Buehler had an injured back and didn't go to work Wednesday. He stayed at the Nordic Street home he shared with two roommates in Orange.

Buehler, who had received firefighter training at El Camino Fire Academy, was trying to save a neighbor's cat that had been in the tree for two days meowing, neighbors said today.

Buehler managed to grab the cat, but then some branches cracked and he lost his balance, falling to the sidewalk from the tree at around 1 p.m., authorities said.

"He was a great guy – easy going, liked to be around friends and would always make you feel welcome," said a roommate, Danté Maddox.

Firefighters tried to save his life and took him to a hospital, where he died, police said.

Despite popular belief, firemen do not typically respond to calls asking to rescue cats.

"When the cats get hungry, they typically come back down," said Capt. Ian MacDonald of the Orange Fire Department. "Also, laddering a tree has a level of risk involved. Knowing that the cat will come down, we don't take unnecessary risks."

A neighbor called Animal Care Services to get the cat out of the tree. The officer arrived at about the same time as the accident, said Deanne Thompson, a county spokeswoman. The cat landed safetly on the ground.

The cat, which had minor injuries, was taken, treated and returned to the owners today.

Sacbee.com

More local agencies caught in bond turmoil

Failed auctions raise the cost of borrowing for SMUD, Placer and El Dorado services.

By John Hill - jhill@sacbee.com

Published 12:00 am PST Monday, March 3, 2008

State and local governments are facing a sudden spike in borrowing costs in a little-known bond market, the latest fallout from the subprime mortgage meltdown.

"It could disrupt local services," California Treasurer Bill Lockyer said of the auction-rate bond mess. "It could make government more expensive. That's a real thing to be concerned about."

Public agencies, from the city of Roseville to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, say they are working to restructure their debt to avoid budget strains, and point out that the same bond markets have saved them money in recent years.

But there is no doubt that they are scrambling to fix a financial problem that began when some of the companies that insure tax-exempt government bonds were shaken by their losses in mortgage-based securities.

The end result is sticker shock for state and local governments, which got into the obscure bond markets because, for years, they offered unusually low borrowing costs.

Sacramento County, for example, saw the interest rate on a pension obligation bond climb last month to 8.5 percent from 6.5 percent, boosting its monthly interest payment by more than \$500,000.

Cities and counties aren't the only ones. Water districts, housing agencies, municipal utilities and others also got into the act, issuing a statewide total of \$27.8 billion in auction-rate bonds and an amount thought to be much higher in the variable-rate demand market.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has about \$400 million in auction-rate bonds – amounting to about a fifth of its debt, said Noreen Roche-Carter, the public utility's treasurer.

With a once-robust market now in crisis, the utility and other public agencies are feverishly working to refinance those debts – much as a homeowner would refinance a mortgage.

SMUD is paying \$175,000 a week in additional interest and is negotiating with banks and other lenders to come up with new financing. If it fails to do so, the utility could see increased interest payments of \$9 million over the next year.

Proceeds from auction bonds help the utility pay for power plants and other facilities.

Despite the downturn in the bond market, the utility remains on solid financial footing, Roche-Carter said.

"It's the bond insurers that are overextended, and we're all being affected even if our credit ratings haven't changed," she said. "I think it's noise at this point. I don't think there will be any exposure to ratepayers."

The El Dorado Irrigation District issued \$92 million in auction-rate bonds in 2003 and another \$8.3 million in 2004 to pay for water projects such as upgrades and expansions. The average interest rate was 3.5 percent, Deanne Kloepfer, a district spokeswoman, said in a written response to questions from The Bee.

Those rates shot up recently to as high as 4.7 percent for the 2003 bonds and 11 percent for the 2004 bonds. If rates stay high, the district would be on the hook for about \$2 million more each year, Kloepfer said.

But the district wants to avoid service rate increases by putting the money in other investments such as fixed-rate bonds.

In Roseville, Finance Director Russ Branson said the city issued two auction-rate bonds for a total of \$150 million for a power plant. Roseville also manages the South Placer Wastewater Management Authority, which earlier issued \$90 million in auction-rate bonds.

Branson said the city is moving the money into a different type of bond. So far, he said, the energy plant project is staying within budget.

"We typically budget a little more and so we have some room in the budget to absorb some of this," Branson said.

The Placer County Water Agency sold \$35 million of auction-rate bonds in 2005.

"At the time, it looked to be a very good structure," said Joe Parker, director of financial services. But then the bond's insurer had its credit-rating downgraded, and interest rates shot up from an average of 3.25 percent to 5.44 percent this month. The agency hopes to convert to fixed-rate bonds in April.

The state of California also felt the pinch. The state has only a small percentage of bonds in the troubled markets. But the interest rates for some of those bonds have soared. The rate on a \$47 million water bond, for instance, increased Thursday from 4 percent to 5.4 percent.

Since 2003, the state has paid an average of 2.2 percent on \$500 million in general obligation auction-rate bonds. But recent resets hovered around 6 percent.

The state, like local governments, is moving those bonds into more traditional investment vehicles.

"For us, it's a temporary problem," state Deputy Treasurer Paul Rosenstiel said. "We're well on our way to fixing it."

For many agencies, the increases represent a dramatic turnaround from years of savings in the auction-rate bond market.

"In the broader context, this has been a great product for us to be in," Rosenstiel said.

The El Dorado Irrigation District estimates it saved \$6 million in its 2003 and 2004 bonds. Roseville figures auction-rate bonds reduced the interest costs for its power plants by about \$3 million.

One option for local governments is to buy back the bonds themselves, and hold them off the market until things settle down.

Sen. Mike Machado, D-Linden, is carrying a bill that would make it clear that local governments could buy back their debt without retiring the bond.

That way, the agencies would not have to go back to voters to reauthorize the bonds, or start from scratch and be forced to pay underwriters and insurers again.

"What this does is help maintain the obligations voters and legislative bodies have approved," Machado said.

Road Closures and Parking Changes Effective March 3, 2008

The following changes affecting parking and vehicular traffic will occur on Monday March 3. Attached is a campus map showing the specific locations affected.

East Perimeter Road Closure – Due to infrastructure installation, the perimeter road from the south side of the Administration Building to the entrance to Parking Lot J will be closed to through traffic from March 3 to April 13. To minimize the loss of parking the work will be performed in two stages, beginning with the southern portion. Twenty parking spaces will be unavailable in each stage. See items 1 & 2 on next page.

Parking Lot H – Due to the construction of a new parking structure this lot will be closed from March 3 to the summer of 2009. The adjacent Volleyball Courts, Tennis Courts and Softball Field will also be closed. 300 parking spaces will be eliminated during this period. See Item 5 on next page.

To mitigate the effects of the reduced parking spaces, the following measures are being taken.

Parking Lot L-30 parking spaces will be converted from student use to staff. A portion of the circulation road will be converted to one way only. This will provide space for twenty additional student parking spaces. See Items 6 & 7 on next page.

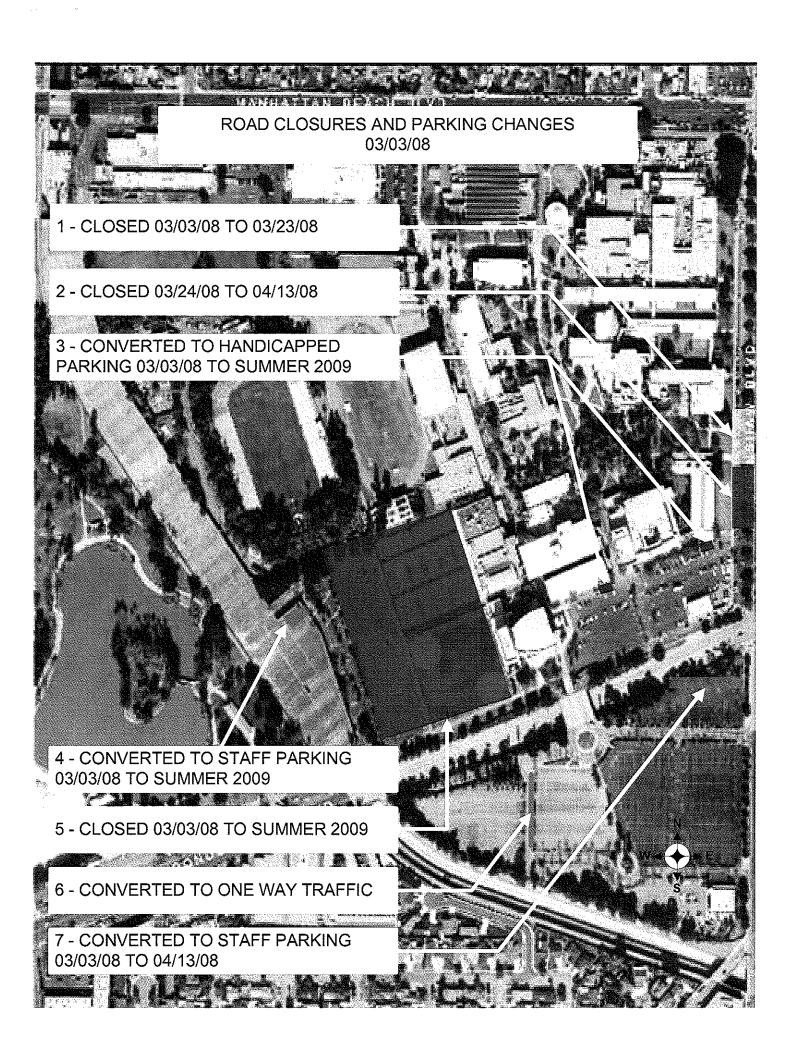
Parking Lot F - 20 parking spaces will be converted from student use to staff. See Item 4 on next page.

Parking Lot K-8 parking spaces will be converted from staff to handicapped. See Item 3 on next page.

*Off Campus Rentals – Up to 150 parking spaces will be rented from Alondra Park and Golf Course to provide overflow parking for students. A shuttle will be provided to pick up and drop off. It is anticipated these spaces will be needed for three weeks.

These measures will provide less student parking spaces than eliminated but after the first three weeks of a semester the demand for parking decreases substantially and continues to decline as the semester progresses. Parking will be monitored to determine if additional parking is needed.

* This measure is not confirmed yet.





El Camino College's



Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Adjacent to the Planetarium, near ECC's Cherry Blossom Trees

Refreshments and a Very Special Presentation

The El Camino Community College District is committed to providing equal employment and educational opportunities for all individuals, regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, gender, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, handicap, age and Vietnam-era status.

FROM: Skinner, Erik Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 3:22 PM

Subject: Budget Update--February 20, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

This message provides a quick update on recent actions by the Governor and Legislature regarding the current-year budget:

- On Saturday, the Governor signed a package of special session legislation making midyear reductions in funding for almost all sectors of the state budget. Reductions for the community colleges and K-12 schools are contained in AB 4xxx which made a total of \$506 million in current-year reductions to Proposition 98 spending. Of this amount, \$31 million consists of reductions to the California Community Colleges.
- The \$31 million is made up of an assortment of categorical funds from the current and prior two fiscal years that are unspent and have not been committed to districts (the attached spreadsheet identifies the specific reductions). These funds went unspent for a variety of reasons such as grants that were declined by districts late in the fiscal year, programs that were under-subscribed, and delays associated with starting up new programs. In addition, the \$31 million also includes \$10 million in SB 70 Career Technical Education projects that will be funded out of the 2008-09 State Budget rather than the current year budget. None of these reductions affect funding that has been allocated or promised to districts.
- AB 4xxx also delays \$1.1 billion in payments to K-12 schools during the 2008-09 fiscal year. This delay is designed to improve the state's cash flow position in 2008-09. No such provision is contained for the community college.
- With the enactment of the special session bills, action on the current-year budget comes to an end. While the special session certainly raised concerns, I think it is fair to say that we were able to avoid any actions that harmed community college districts. Quickly the legislative budget process will turn to the more significant challenges of addressing the state's budget-year shortfall.
- Yesterday, the Governor issued an executive order calling on the heads of state agencies to reduce current-year spending by 1.5 percent. This executive order pertains only to the funding supporting state agencies (not local assistance funding). Therefore the executive order will have no affect on local community college budgets.

This morning the Legislative Analyst's Office released its *Analysis of the 2008-09 Budget Bill* containing a thorough review of the Governor's budget proposal. The *Analysis* also provides updated estimates of state revenues and Proposition spending requirements, as well as other recommendations specific to the community colleges. We are currently reviewing the LAO's report and will provide an update shortly.

Erik Skinner, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy, Chancellor's Office, California Community College

CC: Board, College Council

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES REDUCTIONS IN AB 4xxx (unspent local assistance funds)

	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	TOTAL
	1	(•	1
Nursing Program Enrollment/Equipment	5,383	0	0	5,383
Student Financial Aid Administration	6,937	27,970	0	37,907
Special Services for CalWORKs Recipients	1,340,266	3,193,048	0	4,533,314
	28,000	0	12,163	40,163
	167,006	448,883	0	615,889
	612,289	0	6,100,000	6,712,289
Extended Opportunity Programs and Services	585,482	954,423	0	1,539,905
California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)	0	2,672,480	1,158,946	3,831,426
Career Technical Education (SB 70)	0	500,154	10,000,000	10,500,154
	0	10,175	1,142,885	1,153,060
	0	0	104,054	104,054
	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
	\$2,748,363	\$7,807,133	\$20,518,048	\$31,073,544



ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD SUITE 204
NOVATO, CA 94949
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234
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Chairperson E. JAN KEHOE CCLDIF

Vice Chairperson LURELEAN B. GAINES East Los Angeles College

> President BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President

Business Officer DEANNE WILBURN

ITAS TOM LANE

Administrative Assistant CLARE GOLDBERG RECEIVED

FEB 12 2008

January 31, 2008

MEMO TO: Chief Executive Officers, Accreditation Liaison Officers,

Board Chairpersons, Academic Senate Presidents, Interested

Others

FROM:

Barbara A. Beno

Barbara a. Beno

SUBJECT:

Report on January 9-11, 2008 Commission Meeting

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges met on January 9-11, 2008, at the Westin Hotel in Burlingame, California. Actions were taken on 64 institutions, including comprehensive evaluations, candidacy, initial accreditation, midterm reports, progress reports, and substantive change reports. The list of institutional actions is appended to this memorandum.

CC: B 1.



ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

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Vice President GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President LILY OWYANG

> Business Officer DEANNE WILBURN

> > ITAS TOM LANE

Administrative Assistant CLARE GOLDBERG

REPORT OF THE JANUARY 9-11, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

At its meeting, January 9-11, 2008, The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, took the following institutional actions:

Reaffirmed Accreditation on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Cabrillo College Cuyamaca College Grossmont College MTI College Riverside City College Skyline College

Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Cañada College College of San Mateo Imperial Valley College Marymount College Sierra College

<u>Placed on Show Cause on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation</u> Salvation Army Crestmont College

Granted Candidacy on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation

Moreno Valley Campus Norco Campus

Denied Initial Accreditation on the Basis of a Comprehensive

Evaluation

Moreno Valley Campus Norco Campus

Accepted System Report with Visit

University of Hawai'l Community Colleges

Accepted Progress Report with Visit

Bakersfield College
Columbia College
Crafton Hills College
El Camino College
Gavilan College
Heald College
Lake Tahoe Community College
Mt. San Jacinto College
Windward Community College

Rejected Report and Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

San Joaquin Valley College

Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Cuesta College Shasta College Solano Community College

Placed on Probation on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Modesto Junior College

Placed on Show Cause on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Northern Marianas College

Continued on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

College of the Marshall Islands Hawaii Tokai International College Porterville College Victor Valley College

Continued on Probation on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

College of the Redwoods
Lassen College

Removed from Probation and Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Hartnell College

Removed from Warning on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Cerro Coso College College of the Sequoias

Removed from Probation on the Basis of a Progress Report and Visit

Brooks College

Accepted Progress Reports

Feather River College Fresno City College

Removed from Warning and Placed on Probation on the Basis of a Progress Report

Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health

Accepted Focused Midterm Reports with Visit

Oxnard College Saddleback College Ventura College

Removed from Warning and Placed on Probation on the Basis of a Focused Midterm

Report with Visit

College of Marin

Accepted Focused Midterm Reports

Irvine Valley College Moorpark College San Diego City College San Diego Mesa College San Diego Miramar College San Jose City College

Accepted Midterm Reports

Antelope Valley College Evergreen Valley College Mt. San Antonio College

Accepted Special Report

Brooks College

Accepted Special Report and Visit

Diablo Valley College Defense Language Institute

Placed on Warning on the Basis of a Special Report and Visit

MiraCosta College

Deferred Substantive Change

American Samoa Community College

Withdrawal from Accreditation

American Academy of Dramatic Arts Los Angeles



For Immediate Release

Contact: Ron Owens 916-327-5356 Office 916-804-4238 Mobile rowens@ccco.edu

March 3, 2008

Four Community Colleges Faculty Honored With 2008 Hayward Award for Excellence in Education

SACRAMENTO – The Board of Governors (BOG) recognized four community college faculty members as recipients of the 2008 Hayward Award for Excellence in Education earlier today. BOG President Lance Izumi congratulated Travis Parker, Jonathan Brennan, Christine Schultz, and Joyce Bishop.

The Hayward Award for Excellence in Education program was established in 1989 in honor of Gerald C. Hayward, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges from 1980 to 1985. Award recipients are nominated and selected by representatives of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) for demonstrating the highest level of commitment to their students, college, and profession as exemplified by their outstanding performance in professional activities and active participation on campus.

"The 2008 Hayward Award for Excellence in Education are wonderful awards where we honor the best of California's community college educators," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Diane Woodruff. "These recipients have demonstrated their commitment and passion for assisting students that extends beyond the classroom."

The 2008 Hayward Awards are supported through a grant from the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Recipients of this prestigious award were selected from nearly 58,000 full-time and part-time members of the community college faculty statewide. Each recipient will receive a \$1,250 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

"As the sponsor of this award, the Foundation for California Community Colleges proudly recognizes and supports community college faculty members who are true leaders and role-models," said Foundation President and CEO Dr. Paul Lanning. "The recipients of this award demonstrate genuine commitment to their students, college and profession, serving as exemplary members of the system's teaching community."

The recipients of the 2008 Hayward Awards are:

Travis Parker, Cosumnes River College: Travis Parker is an instructor of Physical Education and coach of the track and soccer teams. Aside from his roles as teacher and coach, his Academic Senate president shares that Parker is a mentor, tutor, and community activist. Parker hails from humble beginnings—his parents were sharecroppers and had only 12 years of education between the two of them. He now volunteers his time with an organization he co-founded and co-directs called the Alpha Academy, which targets African American male high school students and their parents. He has also worked with an organization which seeks to help African American students in high school span the bridge to college. "We must give our students direction by teaching them that success is not a destination but a process," wrote Parker. Parker himself feels that educators must be visionaries, guides, and motivators.

Jonathan Brennan, Mission College: Jonathan Brennan, an English professor at Mission College, has set a personal goal of increasing statewide retention rates by 25 percent, and has started this quest on his own campus, developing learning communities which combine basic skills courses with student success strategies, which helped increase his own campus's retention rate by 22 percent. Brennan believes that addressing diversity is the foundation of student success, and incorporates this mentality in his classroom by utilizing texts which promote diversity discovery. Additionally, he carries out this vision campuswide by organizing events on campus that expose students to diverse cultural practices. Of his commitment to diversity, his colleague wrote, "In the classroom, his work demonstrates a commitment to diversity and an understanding of the needs of multicultural students that goes far beyond the ordinary." It is Brennan's stringent commitment to increasing retention rates both on a campus level and statewide, in conjunction with his tireless efforts to reach his students through addressing and embracing diversity, that compels the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to recognize Brennan as a 2008 Hayward Award winner.

Christine Schultz, Santa Monica College: Christine Schultz, professor of Political Science, has been selected as one of the four recipients of the 2008 Hayward Award. Schultz's professional passions are students and the classroom. She is so passionate, in fact, that she has accumulated 238 days of unused sick leave, and has never opted to take a sabbatical. Schultz's passion translates into one of the highest retention rates in the college, with over 90 percent of her students passing, and over 75 percent of them achieving an A or a B. Schultz doesn't grade lackadaisically to achieve these statistics—rather, she has developed a complex grading system which involves offering 42 separate assignments over the course of a 16-week semester from which students may choose to best fit their particular talents and interests. Additionally, Schultz spent 20 years developing and growing the campus transfer alliance program at Santa Monica College, actively recruiting students who would be least likely to consider going to college from surrounding high schools, let alone joining an honors club. She has maintained contact with these students even after they had enrolled. While Schultz reluctantly left her position as advisor when she became department chair, she continues to serve in an advisory capacity and as a teacher in the program.

Joyce Bishop, Golden West College: Joyce Bishop, a Psychology professor, was selected as one of the four recipients for the Hayward Award. Bishop is noted on her campus for her commitment to her students, and especially for her willingness to tailor her teaching to her students' learning styles. Her colleague wrote of her, "...I can say, unequivocally, that any student I have come in contact with who has been in this individual's classroom has nothing but praise for her and gratitude for having had the benefit of her instruction." In addition to Bishop's passionate application of learning techniques, she volunteers at Pathways, a non-profit organization she founded with her husband 17 years ago. At Pathways, Bishop serves women who are from abusive backgrounds, have been indigent, or are poor by federal or state standards, among other challenges. Bishop's indefatigable devotion to these marginalized students permeates her existence on and off campus, and it is with this in mind that Joyce Bishop has been selected to receive the 2008 Hayward Award.

The California Community Colleges is the largest higher educational system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 109 colleges with more than 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit www.ccco.edu/.

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TO:

ALL ECC EMPLOYEES

FROM:

The Inter-Club Council & Student Development Office

SUBJECT:

3-Day Campus Bloodmobile

We have arranged for the American Red Cross Bloodmobile to visit our campus on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 19TH & 20TH in the El Camino College Activities Center.

Our goal for this drive is 360 pints of life saving blood!

The American Red Cross relies on the generosity of donors to replenish the blood supply that is in constant demand. Whether it is for a patient undergoing surgery or a community crisis, there must be blood available at all times. Every person who weighs at least 110 pounds and whose health permits, may contribute blood. See the back of this sheet for more information.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT RESERVATION. Choose an appointment time at 20-minute intervals, from 9:00am-3:00pm OR 3:00pm-8:00pm (evening hours on Wednesday only). The donor process takes about one hour and includes screening, testing and a recovery period with refreshments. We will try to honor your pledge by giving donors with scheduled appointments first priority at the Bloodmobile.

INSTRUCTORS, PLEASE HELP US TO INFORM STUDENTS by announcing the dates and times of the Bloodmobile in classes and posting the attached flier on a bulletin board. Students may make an appointment at the Activities Center information desk OR sign up online at www.givelife.org (sponsor code: ECC).

> BLOODMOBILE PLEDGE SLIP I pledge to donate blood at the El Camino College Bloodmobile. NAME: (please print) ECC DEPARTMENT How do you want your appointment confirmed? Please check one. phone me at: email me at: send via campus mail NOTE: appointments made online will automatically be confirmed via email YOUR APPOINTMENT PREFERENCE TO DONATE BLOOD: Tuesday, MARCH 18TH (9:00am-3:00pm) **TIME:**_____ Wednesday, MARCH 19TH (9:00am-3:00pm) **TIME:**____ Wednesday evening, MARCH 19[™] (3:15pm-8:00pm) **TIME:**_____ OR Thursday, MARCH 20TH (9:00am-3:00pm) **TIME:**_____

Please return this to: JANICE WATANABE, ECC STUDENT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

OR.... sign up online at www.givelife.org (sponsor code is: ECC)

THANK YOU E.C.C. FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Who Can Donate Blood?

American Red Cross Blood Services Southern California Region requires volunteer blood donors to be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. However, some people may be temporarily or permanently deferred from donating blood. Some reasons for indefinite or temporary deferrals are listed below.

Indefinite Deferrals

- · Persons who had viral hepatitis on or after age 11.
- Persons who are at high risk for contracting HIV/AIDS, such as:
- Males who had sex with another male, even once, since 1977
- Persons who have injected street drugs, (including steroids) even once
- Persons who have received clotting factor concentrates
- Persons who have exchanged sex for drugs or money since 1977
- Persons who have tested positive for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)
- · Persons who have AIDS or one of its symptoms.
- Anyone who spent three or more cumulative months in the United Kingdom (U.K.) from the beginning of 1980 through the end of 1996.
- Anyone who spent five or more cumulative years in Europe from 1980 to the present.
- . Any person who spent a total of six months on or associated with a military base in
 - Belgium, the Netherlands (Holland), or Germany from 1980 through 1990
 - Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Italy or Greece from 1980 to 1996
- Anyone who received a blood transfusion in the U.K. between 1980 and the present.

Temporary Deferrals

- Persons who have visited a malarial endemic area within the past 12 months.
- Persons who had malaria within the past three years.
- Persons who have been tattooed in the past 12 months in California or in another state that does not regulate tattoo facilities.
- Persons who had their body pierced in the past 12 months without using sterile, single use needles.
- Persons who have been exposed to someone with hepatitis within the past 12 months.
- Persons who have received blood, plasma or other blood components within the past 12 months.
- Women who are pregnant, or women who have given birth or had a third trimester miscarriage or abortion within the past six weeks.
- Persons who had surgical removal of cancer or radiation/ chemotherapy treatment for cancer (other than non-melanoma skin cancer) within the past five years.
- · Persons who had a heart attack within the past six months.
- Persons who had coronary bypass surgery within the last six months, or persons who have not fully recovered from the surgery or are still taking cardiovascular medication, even after six months.
- Persons who had epileptic seizures within the past three months.

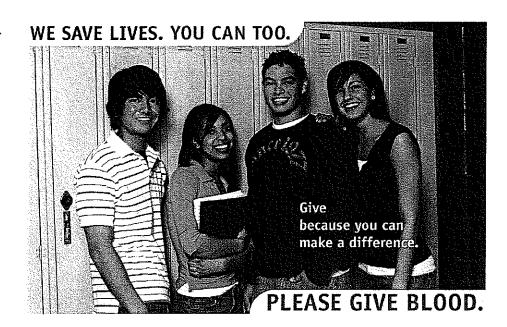
- Persons who have been treated for syphilis or gonorrhea within the past 12 months.
- Persons who had sex with anyone at high risk for HIV or AIDS within the past 12 months.
- Persons who are currently taking antibiotics for treatment of an acute or chronic bacterial infection (if you have already taken your last dose at the time of donation and have no symptoms you CAN donate.
- Persons not feeling well on the day of the donation (e.g. cold, flu, etc.).

If you have questions about deferrals and/or the procedures for donating blood, call the American Red Cross Blood Services Southern California Region at: 1-800-843-2949 extension 7066



American

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Help Now!! Save a Life! The ECC Inter-Club Council invites you to donate blood.

Location: Activities Center East Lounge

Tuesday, March 18, 2008 (9 am - 3 pm) Wednesday, March 19, 2008 (9 am - 8 pm) Thursday, March 20, 2008 (9 am - 3 pm)

All blood drive participants who fill out an entry form at the drive will be entered in a drawing to win Two Disneyland Annual Passes. All donors will also receive a Red Cross Shirt.

The policy of the El Camino Community College District is to provide an educational and employment environment in which no person shall be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or retaliation

Sign-up on line at www.givelife.org enter sponsor code: ECC or visit the Activity Center and sign-up at the counter. For additional questions or concerns, contact Janice Watanabe, ICC Advisor at 310-660-3506



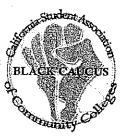
Donor identification is required prior to donating blood.

Learn more about the blood donation process and donor eligibility at www.HelpSaveALife.org

«eDonor»

10th Annual Black Caucus Leadership Conference

ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT



In order to protect the integrity of the Black Caucus and the Elections Process, all conference participants including but not limited to students, Advisors, Speakers and presenters and members of the community shall abide by the following.

- 1. We shall recognize that all people deserve respect regardless of their cultural background, ethnicity, race, religious beliefs, political ideologies, disabilities, sexual orientation, age, or socioeconomic status.
- 2. We shall be careful to avoid using any personal power we may possess (whether it be physical, intellectual, academic, sexual, racial, or social) to exploit or intimidate other people.
- 3. When it is necessary and appropriate to publicly challenge the beliefs or actions of a person, we shall strive to do so with sensitivity. We shall make an attempt to preserve the dignity of that person. We shall accept the challenge of attempting at all times to build people up rather than tear them down. This applies to our treatment of each other and those around us, whether the setting be business or social.
- 4. We shall recognize that being a member of this organization involves participating in an environment by which the freedom of expression is of paramount importance to ensure total student input on discussion the free exchange of ideas. We shall make an attempt to preserve the dignity of that person.
- 5. We shall be careful to avoid dual relationships that may involve incompatible roles and conflicting responsibilities.
- 6. We shall strive to remain open-minded, intellectually resilient, and willing to entertain and evaluate position others than our own. By maintaining this posture, we ensure that we do not impose our beliefs upon other people and encourage debate without penalty.
- 7. We will always consider carefully the consequences of our actions; by which actions are taken and to protect the overall mission of our organization as per our constitution.
- 8. We shall not exploit colleagues or others for personal or professional gain.
- 9. We shall give due regard to our role as students by maintaining our educational goals and promoting the idea of high academic achievement and success.
- 10. We shall always guard against anything that might compromise our ability to complete the tasks our constituents elected us to accomplish.
- 11. When we speak or act as a private person, we shall avoid creating the impression that we speak or act for the whole of Black Caucus.
- 12. We shall refrain from any illegal activities during any Black Caucus sponsored functions.

SignOnSanDiego.com

CSU told 'civility' demand is too vague

Trustees will review campus conduct rule

By Sherry Saavedra STAFF WRITER

January 21, 2008

In a society that some say doesn't value manners, administrators at San Diego State University and Cal State San Marcos are being told they can't punish students for not being "civil."

California State University trustees will consider a revision to a section of the student conduct code Wednesday that includes an expectation that students be "civil." The change would make it more clear that disciplinary action for "uncivil" conduct is not allowed.

A Northern California court recently ruled the term is too broad.

"The court told us we could not base discipline on civility . . . There is a certain lack of precision to that word," said Christine Helwick, general counsel for CSU.

The policy affects students at 23 CSU campuses, including SDSU and Cal State San Marcos.

That's not to say that students will be permitted to shove someone out of the way while rushing to class. Helwick said students can be disciplined for specific acts of incivility laid out in the conduct code, such as lewd or obscene behavior.

Helwick said it was never the CSU's intention to discipline students for the more general charge of "incivility." She said the revision will make it "abundantly clear."

"We thought it was clear before," Helwick said.

A federal district judge in Oakland didn't. At a November hearing, U.S. Magistrate Wayne Brazil said that a university can say it hopes students will be "civil," but it can't hold a punishment over their heads if they're not. Brazil granted a preliminary injunction, barring the CSU from basing disciplinary proceedings on incivility.

The ruling stemmed from a lawsuit brought by a student organization at San Francisco State University, the College Republicans, after they were investigated for incivility during an antiterrorism rally.

At the 2006 rally, students stomped on signs with Hamas and Hezbollah flags displaying the name "Allah." Some students were offended. And a university administrator notified the group that it was accused of acts of incivility. That triggered a formal disciplinary investigation.

A panel ultimately dismissed the charge, but the students challenged the word "civil" in the conduct code as too broad. If left in place, they believed it could discourage future protected speech.

CSU argued that the civility provision could not be reasonably interpreted as a basis for disciplinary action.

Brazil disagreed, partly because the preceding sentence threatened possible consequences for violations of the conduct code.

"Requiring students to be civil might well require students to forsake the means for communication that are most likely to be effective," according to Brazil's written opinion.

The civility case is pending.

CSU is not proposing to eliminate the statement on consequences, but rather move it so that it precedes a list of specific behaviors that are grounds for discipline.

David Hacker, an attorney with the nonprofit Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal group representing the College Republicans, said CSU's proposed remedy still jeopardizes First Amendment rights. The civility statement should be removed, he said.

"I think the court wanted them to strike it from their policy," Hacker said.

"I don't know what it means to be uncivil. It could mean one thing to one person, something else to another and something else to an administrator and capture a lot of protected speech under its wing."

Some education policy watchdog groups say these types of broad "speech codes" are all too common on college campuses nationwide and were created mostly in the 1980s and 1990s as students became increasingly diverse.

According to the Philadelphia-based Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, 75 percent of 346 colleges surveyed nationwide explicitly prohibit speech that is protected by the First Amendment.

"Universities are not respecting the marketplace of ideas and are censoring student speech with policies like the (CSU) one," Hacker said.

SDSU Student President James Poet said asking students to be civil is rather vague. But students shouldn't need a threat of punishment hanging over their heads to be well-mannered.

"I'd hope students would want to be civil to each other . . . Isn't that anybody's wish?"



esident's

NEWSLETTER

Volume 20 • Number 1

February 11, 2008

Welcome Back!

We kicked off spring semester 2008 with our Flex Days February 6 and 7. The days were full of opportunities to reconnect with colleagues and collaborate through professional development. Our focus on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) will help us all as we work on program-level SLOs and/or course-level SLOs.

Welcome back to El Camino College; we look forward a great semester!



Humanities Building Opens

Our brand new Humanities Building opened last week with a grand opening celebration complete with an open house, reception and tours.

The \$30.9 million project is the first completely new instructional building on the El Camino College campus in nearly 40 years. The building replaces the last of the original "barracks-type" structures on campus, trucked up more than 60 years ago from the old Santa Ana Army Air Base in Orange County.

The three-story building is constructed of brick, concrete and glass, with energy-efficient features and utilizing recycled and eco-friendly materials wherever possible. All class-rooms have podiums and projectors and are designed to let in plenty of natural light. An energy-saving computerized heating system will eventually be controlled by our Central Plant. Hallway floors are covered in thick vinyl, eliminating noise from passing students.

Surrounded by the Natural Sciences Complex, the Schauerman Library and the Administration Building, the Humanities Building is designed to serve as the "front door" to the campus from Crenshaw Boulevard. All are invited to tour the new building!

Thank to all who supported Measure E, which made the Humanities Building and numerous other facilities improvements on campus possible.

Humanities Building Fast Facts

- Building Size: 83,900 square feet
- Landscaping: 35,000 square feet of drought-tolerant landscaping
- State-of-the-art services: Internet, Computer labs, Energy efficient designed to provide abundant natural lighting
- Building features: 33 classrooms, 13 computer labs, 49 offices, 560 computers, More than 47 miles of fiber optic and other cable

Accreditation: Deadline Reminder

As the accreditation process continues, we are nearing our deadline for presenting a final draft. It has been an enlightening process for those involved and opportunities for contributing to the process are still encouraged.

As a reminder, all 2008-09 plans need to be linked to our college's three Strategic Initiatives. These initiatives were approved by the Board of Trustees at the June 2007 meeting and will remain in place at least until the projected revision in 2010.

The initiatives are important because they help us focus our department, division, and area plans in a unified direction that moves the college forward to meet the objectives of our mission statement.

All plans must be in Plan Builder, prioritized, and signed off by February 29 for all divisions except Academic Affairs, which has a March 14 deadline.

Remember: All El Camino College employees and students are encouraged to join the accreditation review process. All documents are posted on *MyECC* for review and comment. Look for them in the "Accreditation Self Study" link under "Planning Documents" in the "Documents" tab.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Offer excellent educational and student support services:

- a) Enhance college services to support student learning using a variety of instructional delivery methods and services.
- b) Maximize growth opportunities and strengthen programs and services to enhance student success.
- c) Strengthen partnerships with schools, colleges and universities, businesses and community-based organizations to provide workforce training and economic development for our community.

2. Support self-assessment, renewal, and innovation:

- a) Use student learning outcomes and assessment to continually improve processes, programs and services.
- b) Use research-based evidence as a foun-

dation for effective planning, budgeting and evaluation processes.

3. Modernize the infrastructure to support quality programs and services:

- a) Use technological advances to improve classroom instruction, services to students and employee productivity.
- b) Improve facilities to meet the needs of students and the community for the next fifty years.

Community College Budget

Governor Schwarzenegger recently released his 2008-09 budget, proposing significant cuts to all programs and services, including community colleges. This budget would impose a 10 percent reduction for the entire state budget across the board, totaling more than \$10.6 billion in cuts.

Proposed community college reductions include:

- \$404 million for apportionments
- \$80 million for categorical programs
 To achieve these goals, the governor proposes for 2008-09:
 - No COLA on apportionments
 - Growth on apportionments of approximately 1 percent
 - A net reduction of \$51.4 million for categorical programs by not providing COLA or growth for these programs
 - No enrollment fee increases
 - Delaying the final 2007-08 apportionment revenue to districts to September 2008 instead of the already delayed July 2008 date

In addition, the Governor proposes a reduction in current year (2007-08) apportionments of \$40 million for community colleges. As reported earlier, this is the first iteration of the proposed 2008-09 budget. A revised state budget will be presented in May.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

February

- 9 Spring Semester Begins
- 11 Add/Program Change Period Begins
- 15-16 Black Caucus
 - Leadership Conference
- 18 Washington's Day Holiday Campus Closed