

Presidents Report – October 6, 2009

Thank you, and first I want to thank Vice President, Beverly Grova, for handling things, including the Board meeting, while I had to be in Chicago. And, I understand it was a much faster meeting. Also, I want to thank you for the concern you have expressed for my son-in-law. He has been hospitalized in the Armstrong Center in Indianapolis now for over three months and while the picture is still grave, he may be able to be transferred to acute care at Loyola which will be much easier on my daughter and seven-year-old grandson.

There were a few items from the last meeting that I followed up on with the Trustees who raised them. They are included in this report so that the Board and the public will be informed. They were as follows:

- 1. MISA contract – Faculty and staff recommended reducing the contract by \$100,000 and that has been done. Everyone agreed that we needed to finish the redesign of the student services area, otherwise we would lose the value of last year’s investment, which included many staff hours.**
- 2. The ALC committee met again late last week and I understand that I will have that report shortly. Meanwhile, as you saw in the board report, we have expanded student tutoring. Also, Dr. Feinour is working with faculty and staff to develop a program that integrates Basic Skills and Workplace Skills – an area we are calling Preparation for College and for Work.**
- 3. Naming the track – Danny Teresa, athletic director, and Mr. Freeman met and decided to delay this issue for the time being.**
- 4. Banner for Soledad High School – Dean, Paulette Bumbalough, the Soledad principal and superintendent have met. The banner is being designed with the expectation that it should be installed before Thanksgiving.**

You heard the great news earlier about the grants. And, while those dollars cannot be used to “fill the hole in the budget,” they make a real impact on the college and on the community. They allow the college to do NEW work that it could not do without these resources. In one case, it enables the faculty to work together to improve student learning in math and science. It creates a

pathway for engineering and will even pay for a full-time engineering faculty to be hired. The other grant – incentive funds awarded through the state and supported by the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – will enable us, in partnership with Cabrillo College, to prepare persons who are unemployed for jobs NOW – in green energy technologies. Participants will be selected by the WIB, and paid by the WIB. They will even provide the work boots, tools, and other equipment needed. We owe Gary Hughes, Stan Crane, Beverly Grova, Mike Thomas, Sharon Alheit, and a host of faculty and staff who put in many long hours to make this happen.

We had a great event Saturday evening and it is really good to see the new work by The Western Stage, the Theater Council, and the College Foundation. They have done some excellent work with the Alisal Center for the Fine Arts and our youth program and now have the possibility of gaining support from the Packard Foundation. I want to thank Jackie Cruz Ortega, Beverly, and all of the Council members as well as The Western Stage staff.

Tomorrow we have the K-16 Bridge program training kickoff with all of our high schools, and I owe Dr. Peterson and his staff deep gratitude for getting that work up and rolling.

On Thursday evening, October 8, at 6:30 pm, in The Western Stage Theater, our Political Science Student Club and the League of Women's Voters is hosting a candidates' night for our Trustee elections.

And, again, I want to thank the staff who presented all of the amazing accomplishments from our summer programs. These extra efforts make such a difference in our students' success.

Thank you.