

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

August 4, 2015

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The fall semester will be starting in less than two weeks and I realize that this is our busiest time of the year. We really appreciate everyone's efforts to provide the very best possible service to our students.

Our Maintenance Department is always extremely busy assisting all of us as we scramble to put the finishing touches on our facilities and make those last minute adjustments for the opening of the fall semester. Please join me in expressing our appreciation to them as you have the opportunity.

We have recently completed the hiring processes for many of the searches that we started in the spring. Our new Vice President of Student Services, Melissa Green, started August 3 and the new Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Todd Scott, starts August 31. The Vice President of Student Services Office is located where the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been residing – next to the Business Office. The Vice President of Instruction and Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, along with Eric Houck, have moved into the offices adjacent to the Associated Student Body Office (next to the Staff Lounge). Doug Haugen has relocated into Eric Houck's recently vacated office. Jan Keen will be serving as the Vice President Student Service's Administrative Assistant.

I believe that we are in the final stages of hiring the Counseling and PE/Kinesiology positions as well as several classified positions. Some of the hires this summer have resulted in COS employees moving to new positions. This has caused us to announce additional positions to "back fill" the vacancies that have resulted.

We will be announcing the Director of Admissions and the Director of Maintenance positions shortly and probably some additional classified positions. It also looks like we will need to start some searches for additional full-time faculty, now that everyone is returning from the summer. This is due to some last minute retirements in our full-time faculty ranks as well as additional funding from the State that is provided specifically to increase our full-time faculty.

Work on our Accreditation Self Study continued over the summer and is following our anticipated timelines. With everyone returning from the summer break, we will be finishing the final draft in October as anticipated.

The Auditors are here this week working on our Annual Audit. As always, we look forward to their confirmation that we did our job well last year, and we look forward to implementing any suggestions for improvement that they may have for us.

Vice President of Administrative Services, Nancy Funk, attended the Annual State Budget Workshop last week and returned with many of the "final" details that we had been lacking. You will be hearing details about the Final FY 2015-2016 COS Budget during this month as we finalize the budget. We will be taking the final product to the Board of Trustees for their approval at our September Board meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all around campus these next couple of weeks 😊

Financial Aid

It's been a busy summer! We have awarded and disbursed Pell Grants to 125 students enrolled during the Summer 2015 Semester. The transition from mailing paper checks to disbursing through Higher One has gone very smoothly. With the training that the Enrollment Services staff received, they were able to assist students with lost Higher One cards, updating addresses and answering questions that students had regarding the Higher One process.

We began running the automated process for awarding Pell to 2015-2016 students who have completed their financial aid files. So far, we have awarded 407 students! Friday, July 31, the next round of Higher One cards will be sent out. The cards will be mailed to students with a FAFSA record and are enrolled for Fall 2015. Our first financial aid disbursement is scheduled for August 21. If students have a completed financial aid file and are eligible for federal aid, they can contact Enrollment Services to see if they qualify for a book voucher. The book voucher can be used at the Book Store for books and supplies. We have now posted the book voucher process on our Financial Aid web page: http://www.siskiyous.edu/financialaid/documents/FA_book_voucher_directions.pdf.

During the first week of July, we had a SIG consultant here to review our Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) process in order to automate the reviewing of students for continued financial aid eligibility based on their academic progress. Currently, three staff members are reviewing a list of students after grades are posted and manually entering their SAP status. It takes a week to complete the process and usually includes staff working during the winter break. The second week of July, the SIG consultant returned with a programmer in order to set us up for automation of our SAP review. I want to thank Jennie Cannon and Josh Collins for the time they spent with the consultants in order to provide the registration background history and process of how our grading system has evolved over the years. There is still work to be done in order to provide the information Banner needs in order to run the automated SAP process by the end of the Fall 2015 Semester. So far, I'm very excited about all the work we were able to accomplish and the changes that have been made in order for COS to maintain compliance with the Department of Education.

Here we go, off to a great start for the 2015-2016 school year!

FOUNDATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations and Foundation

Wow! What a busy month July has been!! We started out with the creation of a float promoting COS that we entered in the Mount Shasta Fourth of July Parade (July 4) as well as the Weed Carnevale Parade (July 8).

Before this summer it has been many, many years since COS had a presence in the Mount Shasta Fourth of July event and we were excited to participate. During the Weed Carnevale Parade, the Upward Bound students all participated and had a great time passing out candy and waving to the crowd. Following the Parade, the Weed Chamber presented awards to various organizations and individuals in Weed and COS received the Educator of the Year Award.



At the same time as plans were underway for the Parade Float, I was really very busy preparing for the *Swing Into Action Golf Tournament* held on July 11 at the Lake Shastina Golf Resort. Back after taking a year off, the College of the Siskiyous Foundation and COS Athletic Department co-hosted its annual Golf Tournament, with 88 golfers enjoying a sunny and fun day of golf at the Resort. The event held five individual contests, including a hole-in-one contest where the winner had the opportunity to win a signed baseball by one of the greatest baseball players in history – Babe Ruth; Putting; Closest to the Pin; and Longest Drive and Accuracy contest. Prizes were also awarded to the first and second place teams for Lowest Gross and Lowest Net scores, as well as an “Eagle” prize – the worst (or highest) scoring team of the tournament. Players also enjoyed a continental breakfast and lunch prepared by the Lake Shastina Resort, as well as a raffle and awards ceremony following the tournament. The event raised approximately \$8,000 to support the purchase of new uniforms for the Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams. Special thanks to our volunteers who came out and helped with the tournament: Jayne Turk, Dennis and Val Roberts, Nancy Funk, Scotty and Sharie Thomason, Shannon Eller and her sister-in-law JoElle Eller, Sue Boston, Monique Gonzalez, Dawnie Slabaugh, and students Jeff Gray and Aaron Larson.



Next on the list of upcoming activities...COS will have a booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair, August 12-16. This is a great recruitment/marketing opportunity for the College. Thousands of people attend the Siskiyou Golden Fair each year to see what Siskiyou County has to offer, spend time with their family, and support agriculture and the arts (and have fun!).

Save the Date...The 2015 Scholarship Fundraising Dinner will be held Saturday, September 19, at the Weed Sons’ of Italy Memorial Hall. More information about this event will be provided as we get closer to the event. Tickets for the event are now on sale. Contact a COS Foundation or Scholarship Committee member to purchase (\$25 each).

I’ve also been working with the COS Athletic Department to establish the COS Eagle Booster Club that will support COS Athletics. A mailing will be sent out soon to former COS athletes, retirees, current employees, etc... inviting membership in this new endeavour.

Angel Fisher, Manager for the Shops, is looking for new volunteers to join the Eagle’s Nest team (volunteers must be at least 17 years of age). Volunteers work 3 to 4 hour shifts per week, or more. Volunteers work as cashiers, screen items as they come in, price merchandise, repair items, research antiques, etc.; there is never a dull moment at the Nest. If you know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering, have them call 938-4663 or stop by the Eagle’s Nest.

The Shop also offers current COS students a 10 percent discount on items (need to show proof of current enrollment). Lots of household and furniture items are available and a Summer Clearance sale will be held August 14 and 15 offering customers \$5 bag of clothes. The Eagles Nest is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

August Events

- Camp Broadway Presents: *Peter Pan Jr.* – July 31 and August 1 at 7 p.m., August 2 at 2 p.m. (Theater)
- Next Monthly COS Board of Trustees Meeting – August 4
- Summer Session Ends – August 6
- Staff Orientation – August 13
- Fall Semester Begins – August 17

Grants Office

We recently received notification from the U.S. Department of Education that the College's Student Support Services Program has been funded for an additional five years! The funding amount for 2015/2016 will be \$265,828.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Enrollment numbers for this fall have been fluctuating over the course of this past month. However, at the time this was written, the July 27 Fall Enrollment Report when compared to the same point in time last year reveals that enrollment is down by only 7.5 FTES. This is a significant improvement from the 60 FTES deficit in last month's report. More good news is reflected in the Summer 2015 enrollment number which had a 3.5 FTES increase. The Summer 2015 FTES generation will be counted in next year's FTES production. So when combined there is only a slight difference in FTES production. This appears to reflect that COS has sustained the eight percent increase in on ground FTES production from last year. To be certain, the numbers will fluctuate greatly until school starts, but there appears to be a positive trend. In addition, enhanced scheduling efficiencies have led to 50 percent fewer class cancellations at this point in time when compared to last year.

Counseling and Student Support Programs Area

We received approval from the Chancellor's Office for our Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) for History, Sociology, and Music. We are waiting for CID approval on the general chemistry sequence and will be expecting approval of the Geology ADT shortly thereafter. Thanks to Chris Vancil, Ahmed Ismail, Ron Slabbinck, Bill Hirt, Eric Houck, and members of the Curriculum Committee for assistance and valuable information throughout the process of development and submission.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

We started July with decorating a float for COS to be in the Fourth of July parade in Mount Shasta and then in the Weed Carnivale parade the following Wednesday. It was great fun to help decorate and to attend the Carnivale parade for my very first time. Lori Luddon rode one of her horses in the parade and brought the other one for company. Two of Maria Ferrasci's granddaughters were in the parade. Then went on from there, and worked with the Foundation and Athletic Department at the golf tournament a couple of weeks later. July was a fun month.

We are still working on putting together the final budget with all the new funding that has been identified once the State budget was passed. We have been reviewing past lists and looking at new ones to identify the best places to spend the funds conservatively and wisely. There have been so many pent up needs that we are finding the lists are long and prioritizing them is a challenge. We are continually being encouraged to be careful as this type of funding we are seeing for 2015/16 will likely not last for very long. We are especially trying to be prudent with the funding identified as one-time money. By the time you receive this, Kent and I will have attended the State Budget Workshop put on by the Chancellor's office. Hopefully, we will have more information regarding the allocation methods for growth and some of the new funding streams (i.e. full-time faculty).

The Business Office continues to work on closing the books for 2014/15; so please submit all invoices and expense reclassifications to their office by August 7. Your budgets, per the tentative budget, are in Banner. Please take a look at those if you have not already. They are in by line item this year so you should be able to monitor your area budget more readily this year. Thank you goes to Kent and Connie for all their work on getting this put together and into the system.

Lodges - Camps and conferences have concluded for the summer. The custodial crew is working hard to prepare the buildings to be ready for August 8 arrival for students participating in the football program. Lodge occupancy is expected to be nearly full at the start of the school year.

Recruitment - Dawnie Slabaugh and Jan Keen are preparing for our booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair. Many faculty and staff have volunteered to meet and greet fair visitors and provide information about college programs.

All members of the Recruitment Task Force are planning a COS Preview Day to coincide with the College Fair on September 21. COS Preview Day will showcase departments and services for high school seniors and community members from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Maintenance has been working hard on summer projects. We are improving sidewalks, trimming landscaping, moving people and offices, waxing floors, among all the regular maintenance the campus requires.

Eagle's Nest is in need of additional volunteers if you know of anyone who might like a fun part-time "job" whose pay is satisfaction of helping the College, have them contact Angel and she will get them set up and rolling.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Summer School is complete! During the summer, classroom renovations also got underway. A shout out to the custodial crew who also shampooed carpets and waxed floors—everything looks great! Faculty are also busy getting ready for the new semester. July 30 will have marked the Part-Time Faculty Orientation and the beginning of back to school faculty activities.

Hopefully, by the time this is read, we will be welcoming several new faces on campus. Faculty were active on summer hiring committees and we're happy to do some rebuilding of our ranks. Many faculty attended one or both of the VPI candidate forums and continued to contribute to that process.

Accreditation self-study work has continued over the summer.

Students have expressed concern that the fall schedule looks light. Compounding this, enrollment in classes doesn't seem quite as robust. Hopefully, we can implement some new strategies to grow enrollment. (Dare we talk about the student-friendly compressed calendar again???)

Faculty will be well represented at the upcoming **Siskiyou Golden Fair!**

Flex activities have been planned for the week prior to classes, with significant Program Review workshops included. Ideally, these days would be on-contract days, so all faculty could be fully involved and the timelines manageable.

No other reports were submitted this month.