

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

October 4, 2016

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

By all accounts, College Day/COS Preview Day activities on September 21 was a great success. We had over 350 high school seniors and their High School Counselors on campus and the event went extremely well. Our faculty and staff were very involved in this year's event. Vice President of Student Services, Melissa Green, and members of her staff met with the high school counselors and had a very productive meeting in which the high school counselors expressed great interest in the Siskiyous College Promise program.

I have initiated a mid-month communication – “Thomason’s Tablet” – to COS, to enhance our efforts to keep everyone informed of what is happening at COS. You should have received that email earlier this week. This communication is intended to complement the monthly *Campus Connection* that is provided to you and the campus community at each Board meeting.

We were very successful in increasing the number of our high school students who applied to COS this year. First-time high school graduates who applied to COS increased from 211 for the fall of 2015 to 439 for the fall of 2016. We also had 143 students apply for the Siskiyous College Promise!

We are continuing to modify our Cafeteria operation. The quality and quantity of the food is praised by everyone. We are still figuring out the exact combination of staffing needed for the operation. We have doubled the number of student workers, and we are going to add a couple more part-time employees so that we can provide the necessary service level during the summers. Also, we are increasing the service provided during the weekends, to ensure our students living in the Lodges are adequately taken care of.

Current projections are that we should be up 75 FTES in our Base FTES for fall of 2016 over what we generated in fall of 2015. We are also expecting that we will have an increase in our Base FTES for the spring of 2017 semester and an increase in the FTES generated by our FIELD Instructional Service Agreement this year. Our goal is to cover the decrease of about 250 FTES that we expected from the San Francisco Police Academy and reach our funding CAP of 2,819; and, hopefully, also increase our FTES by the 75 Growth FTES available to COS this year. The “reallocation” of Growth Funds from other CCC’s that did not grow last year, which allowed us to grow 11 percent in our FTES, may not occur again after this current year. This is due to most CCC’s not growing in their enrollment. In the future, State Budgets funds may be directed to increase Base Funding to assist with increasing operating costs rather than to pay for Growth.

The agenda for our October 7 Planning Day is just about complete. The primary activities for this day will be for the Non-Instructional areas to work on Program Reviews and for Faculty to work on realigning the COS General Education Program.

The Institutional Effectiveness Team will be conducting its first of three visits to COS on October 28. They will be assisting us and focusing on our efforts in Enrollment Data collection and reporting, as well as our utilization of CurricUNET. Their visits will occur over a couple of months, and we expect to receive \$200,000 from the State Chancellor’s Office to help us implement improvements recommended through this process.

The Board of Governors approved the 2017-2018 System Budget request to be submitted to the Governor for consideration. The Budget request totals nearly \$800 million in ongoing spending. The top funding requests are:

- \$125 million for 2 percent Growth
- \$100 million for an estimated 1 percent COLA
- \$200 million for base funding increase to cover general operating expenses
- \$100 million for full-time faculty hiring
- \$25 million for part-time faculty compensation and part-time faculty health insurance programs
- \$25 million for Veterans Resource Centers
- \$50 million for technology funding
- \$50 million for campus safety
- \$25 million to address mental health needs of students
- \$15 million for California College Promise Innovation Grant Program
- \$15 million for Innovation in Education
- An unidentified amount for Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment

Accreditation Update

We continue to work on our Accreditation “Punch List.” In the spring semester, we will begin the preparation of the report that is due to the Accreditation Commission in October, 2017. We will be providing an updated list to our employees during Planning Day. Dr. Todd Scott and I are on an Accreditation Team that will be visiting Monterey Peninsula College the week of October 10.

November Election

We are continuing to monitor the polling relative to Proposition 51 and Proposition 55. You will recall that Proposition 51 is a K-14 facilities bond. Proposition 55 is the temporary extension of tax generated resources for schools and community colleges. Most recent polling has Proposition 51 support below 50 percent and Proposition 55 above 50 percent.

If the Facilities Bond passes, this would be the source for \$20 million dollars for our Performing Arts upgrade project. If Proposition 55 passes, the State would have more revenues and normally this translates to more funding for the California Community Colleges.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend our home games for the COS Fall Sports Teams, and show your support to our students.

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Information

Community Connections: On September 14, I was invited to be the guest speaker at the Yreka Kiwanis meeting to present information about our Siskiyou Promise scholarship program. The members were genuinely interested in our new program and how we are helping Siskiyou County students as they begin their college education. Recently, I also became the COS liaison on the Weed Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity to connect COS and the Chamber in promoting both the City of Weed and COS as community partners.

Foundation Mini Grants: Last week, the Foundation Mini-Grant Readers Committee met and reviewed/selected mini-grant recipients for 2016-2017. Announcement of mini-grant recipients will be made at the October Planning Day event this coming Friday.

COS Preview Day and College Fair: On September 21, approximately 400 high school seniors, parents, and staff attended the College Fair and COS Preview Day event at the Weed Campus. High school seniors were able to meet many of our faculty and staff, view demonstrations, receive information about COS academic programs, and take campus tours.



Mount Shasta High School Seniors enjoying COS Preview Day and College Fair

Foundation

Last Chance to Purchase Tickets to the Annual Scholarship

Fundraising Dinner: Tickets for the 32nd Annual COS Foundation

Scholarship Dinner and Dessert/Coat of Many Colors Auction

are on sale from the COS Public Relations & Foundation Office -

\$25/person. This fun event will be held Saturday, October 15,

at Sons of Italy Hall in Weed. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and a

Tri-Tip Steak and Barbecue Chicken buffet dinner catered by Butte Valley High School FFA Club will be served at

6:30 p.m. Other activities include the dessert auction, silent auction, and the Coat of Many Colors auction. All

funds raised are used to support the COS Scholarship program and local students attending COS.

October Events

- October 1 – Football vs. Modesto College, 1 p.m. (Weed Campus Stadium) – Tailgate Party at the Tennis Courts from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- October 4 – COS Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m. Open Public Session (Yreka Campus RHSI 121)
- October 6 – Bookstore Fashion Show, 1 p.m. (Weed Campus Theater)
- October 7 – All Campus Planning Day/No Classes, 8 a.m. (Weed Campus Theater)
- October 7 – Volleyball vs. Lassen, 6 p.m. (COS Gym)
- October 11 – Women’s & Men’s Soccer vs. Lake Tahoe, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. (Baseball Outfield)
- October 12 – Volleyball vs. Redwoods, 4 p.m. (COS Gym)
- October 15 – Football vs. American River College, 1 p.m. (Weed Campus Stadium) – Tailgate Party at the Tennis Courts from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- October 21– Women’s & Men’s Soccer vs. Lassen, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. (Baseball Outfield)
- October 26 – Volleyball vs. Feather River, 6 p.m. (COS Gym)
- October 27 – Senior Theater Production Presents Larceny and Odd Tales, 7 p.m. (Blackbox Theater)
- October 28 – Women’s & Men’s Soccer vs. Feather River, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. (Baseball Outfield)
- October 28 – Senior Theater Production Presents Larceny and Odd Tales, 7 p.m. (Blackbox Theater)
- October 29 – Senior Theater Production Presents Larceny and Odd Tales, 7 p.m. (Blackbox Theater)
- October 30 – Senior Theater Production Presents Larceny and Odd Tales, 3 p.m. (Blackbox Theater)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I can’t believe September has come and gone. I keep waiting for things to slow down a bit and it doesn’t seem to be happening.

With just adopting our final budget for the year, the system office has sent the requested budget for 2017-2018 and it has been approved by the Board of Governors. It will now make its way to the Governor’s office for consideration as he prepares his January proposed budget. The request is a good one and allows Districts to focus on existing programs without introducing anything new for next year.

Food Services

Food Services are now staffed at the level we first anticipated and are evaluating if that is going to be adequate. They are employing about 15 students and that is wonderful. It can be a challenge to get all their scheduling done but love having all of them working with us.

We are working to find solutions for weekend meals for our Lodge students and are awaiting the results of a survey that has been given to them this week. That will help us to determine what the need truly is and then contemplate how to best meet that need. Many suggestions have been offered and we are considering all of them.

Maintenance

Maintenance continues to work on the remodeling of the Lodge rooms and office moves. We have a couple of minor remodeling projects coming up and continue to work on projects in both Yreka and Weed. Consideration is also being given to a couple of major projects on the horizon in the Life Science building for the Administration of Justice program and in the Gym for expansion of the equipment room and much needed storage. More on those as they travel through the process.

Technology

Technology continues to work with the various Ellucian teams as the analysis continues, developing the process improvement plans. While all of this is going on, the regular responsibilities don't go on hold so everyone continues to stay busy with lots to do. Here are some of the other things going on:

- Technology Services is implementing a new project management tool called Liquid Planner.
- Luminis 5 (aka MyNavigator) upgrade/redesign will be starting this month and will involve many areas/staff.
- Technology Training Room is being readied.

Bookstore

The Bookstore has been busy in September outfitting our students, staff, and the community with the newest College of the Siskiyous clothing styles. Shondi, David, and Ryan sold merchandise at the COS Football games on September 3 and 17. It was fun to help out many of our fans and parents of players get decked out in Siskiyous Navy and Red as they cheered the Eagles on to victories at both home games! The Bookstore clothing sales are already up 83 percent compared to the start of 2015. The new Siskiyous Soccer T-shirts just arrived at the Bookstore in time for the first Soccer home games on Friday, September 30. The Bookstore will be out at the game supporting the teams and selling clothing and souvenirs.

There are more trendy T-shirts on the way to help support the Volleyball and Basketball teams and the fall Theater Department performance of Wizard of Oz. Stop in the Bookstore to check out all of these new shirts and like the Bookstore on Facebook (@SiskiyousBookstore) to find out about our weekly "Item of the Week Specials."

Business Office

The auditors will be on campus in late October, so we are busy finalizing the 2015-2016 year, closing the books, and prepping the required information for them. They will be on campus October 24 thru October 28; so, if they usually need things from your area, please have them ready at least one week prior to that time. It is also important to be available to them during that week so they can finalize their work and have draft financial statements for us at the end of that week.

INSTRUCTION

There have only been a few weeks since the last *Campus Connection*. Since that time, Mike Wilson, Fire Science Faculty has been investigating the possibility of locating a fire station on the campus. This would be an active fire station but would also provide a great opportunity for our fire science students to get some practical experience. Conversations have just begun and Mike Wilson is exploring varying funding sources.

We will be on the lookout for further information from the Chancellor's office in regard to Governor Jerry Brown signing [AB 1741](#) (Rodriguez and O'Donnell). The Bill establishes the California College Promise Innovation Grant Program, which creates partnerships between K-12, community college and four-year university segments to provide pathways for students to achieve educational goals. There is \$15 million dollars available statewide.

The North/Far North Regional Consortium on Career and Technical Education is working on a model for the share of the State's \$200 million dollars Strong Workforce Initiative. This will help us continue our work on Career Pathways: Manufacturing and Product Development; Marketing, Sales and Service; Health Science and Medical Technology; and Public Service.

Sergeant Jeremiah LaRue from the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office and our ADJ Faculty, Michelle Korkowski, worked very hard the past year to submit a needs assessment to the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards (POST) for approval for a Module I Police Academy. Initial feedback from POST has been positive but there is a bit more work to do and information to provide. The POST representatives acknowledged their great work on this project and I would like to as well. This could provide a great opportunity for COS and the community.

The request for the "University Calendar" has been submitted to the Chancellor's Office. Hopefully, we will hear some good news soon.

STUDENT SERVICES

Vice President of Student Services

Happy Fall everyone! Let's start with a Siskiyou Promise update this month. We had 143 applications for the Promise and met 95 percent of our goal. Of those 143 applications, we've awarded 115 full-time Siskiyou Scholars. We received applications from **all** of the identified County high schools, as well as from Modoc High School. Since we want our Siskiyou Scholars to feel welcome, we hosted a Welcome Reception for them in August, sent the students tickets to the first home football game, invited them to an ice cream social – and more to come! Please contact us if you'd like to be part of showing appreciation to this great student group.

On September 9, Student Services Directors and the Associate Dean participated in a Leadership Retreat on campus. We reviewed the Institutional Master Plan, identified Student Services' role in achieving our Institutional goals, reviewed data, and created goals and activities for 2016-2017. This information will be shared and discussed on a broader level during Planning Day.

Scotty invited me to give a presentation on Student Services to the Weed Rotary. Some of the information I discussed included the upcoming "Prior-Prior" Financial Aid process, and the success of CCCApply and Siskiyou Promise. I also invited the Rotary to consider sharing with others the possibility of encouraging current high school students to take COS classes while still in high school. For example, it's possible for a high school student to complete 25 College of the Siskiyou units by his/her senior year (for free) along with taking advantage of the Siskiyou Promise for a year – to receive almost two free years of college! The bottom line is that it's possible for students to pay very little for their first two years of college and/or an associate degree.

The Diversity Committee held our first meeting on September 23. We discussed the possibility of facilitating a “campus climate” survey for our students, which we believe will guide us in our mission and goals. Please look to our Diversity Committee webpage to keep track of our activities.

We held Student Ambassador interviews this month and had an outstanding applicant pool. Be on the lookout next month for Student Ambassador announcements and more information. Thanks to Doug Haugen, Meghan Witherell, Dawnie Slabaugh, and Amanda Greene for all their hard work with this process.

Finally, I ended September with a trip to Sacramento for a Student Equity conference facilitated by the Chancellor’s office. There was a lot of discussion about integrating the SSSP, Student Equity, and Basic Skills plans and what that will look like for each campus in the future. I also attended a Region I meeting and met with Student Equity and SSSP directors and coordinators from Butte College, Feather River, and Shasta. It was encouraging to learn that we all had similar issues and gleaned some great ideas for the future.

Admissions and Records

Applications for the 2016-2017 spring semester will start October 1 – the earliest ever! We are currently working on a new communication plan for our prospective students in order to increase our yield rate. Please feel free to contact us if you have information to share with prospective students and/or you want to be part of the new process.

And speaking of applications, as you may recall, we implemented CCCApply last year for fall, 2016. As a result, we more than doubled our applications from recent high school graduates. We went from 211 for fall, 2015, to 439, fall, 2016. We also saw an increase of applications overall to 1,399 compared to 1,105 last year.

We’ve processed over 300 ISA registrations and are currently finishing up census, which is how we get paid by the State of California for census bearing classes.

We are making progress on the upgrade and fixes to Student Banner. Ellucian consultants will be back on campus the second week of October to work with the Information Technology and Admissions and Records staff specifically.

Finally, we’ve begun the process for setting up Graduation 2017 (already). In addition to setting up the details of commencement itself, a report will be run October 1 to identify students who are close to completing their goal and a letter will be sent to notify them and refer them to Counseling.

Counseling and Student Success

On September 21, we hosted 26 colleges and Armed Forces reps as well as folks from the McConnell and Ford Family Foundations. The College Fair was part of College of the Siskiyous Preview Day activities. College reps reported an improved atmosphere since the expansion of this event to include the Preview Day portion.

DSPS

DSPS will be having their second Advisory Committee meeting at the end of October. It gives the community stakeholders a chance to provide input into the DSPS program as well as learn what the program is doing to support college students with disabilities. Some of the Advisory Committee members are local high school resource and special day class teachers, County school psychologists, Siskiyou Opportunity Center staff, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) staff, and more.

EOPS

We are pleased to report that 88 percent (185/210) of EOPS students did the first progress check-in. This was an increase of 18 percent from last year.

Meal vouchers for our on-campus food service are now available for all current EOPS students. The value of these vouchers is \$75. Students have been very appreciative, and we have gotten great reviews on the food.

SSS and Upward Bound

In order to best serve our TRiO program students, and in an effort to align “sister” programs, the Student Support Services (SSS) program will now be housed in Physical Science 1 with Upward Bound, and will be under the direction of Stephanie Wroten. The result of this merge is a TRiO Programs Office. Pat Kushwara remains the very capable coordinator of the SSS Program.

The Upward Bound (UB) program is thrilled to welcome Tyler Morrison to the team. Tyler is the Academic Advisor for UB, and has been involved in Upward Bound for several years.

Financial Aid

Hard to believe we are coming up on the second major Pell disbursement on October 14, which means we are halfway through the fall semester! We have awarded \$653,240 in Pell grants to a total of 563 students. We had our first loan disbursements on September 23 and 30 with a total of \$606,130 combined subsidized and unsubsidized loans.

And speaking of loans, College of the Siskiyous recently received the 2013 official three-year default rate, which is 22.9 percent!! This is great news because once a school has a 30 percent default rate, sanctions can be placed on that institution, which could eventually result in the loss of federal Title IV Aid. In July of 2015, because our default was 29.7 percent, we partnered with ECMC (Educational Credit Management Corporation), a third party servicer recommended by the Chancellor’s Office to assist us with our default management. They contact our student borrowers who are in repayment and not making payments on their loans and assist them with repayment options.



Our other good news is we have hired two Financial Aid Processing Specialists!! Julie Williams, from Admissions and Records joined us September 12. Amanda Alvarez’s first day is September 20; she is from the San Diego area and had previously worked locally at Scott Valley Bank. We are excited to have them join our team!! Stop by and say hello!

Karen Chandler and Amanda Greene ran our Financial Aid table during the COS Preview Day and College Fair Event, which was held on September 21. The students, staff, and parents were able to answer (guess??) a financial aid question, spin the financial aid wheel of fortune and win a prize! A great time was had by all!

Student Life/Lodges

College of the Siskiyous hosted 357 high school seniors on campus on September 21. Students enjoyed visiting with recruiters at the College Fair, eating cotton candy, and visiting with faculty and staff from academic and support services at the college. Each high school student completed a survey while they were here which we can use to assist with recruitment over the next several months.





The Cleary Act Campus Crime statistics for 2015 have been submitted to the Department of Education and are available to view at the following website: <http://ope.ed.gov/campussafety>.

There have been a lot of activities for our Lodges students in first few weeks of the semester and below are a few of programming/activities that have taken place so far. Our residence life program is robust and uses student workers to pull off some pretty amazing activities.

Completed programs:

- All-Hall Orientation Meeting
- Floor Meetings
- Open Gym (each Wednesday in August)
- Weekend Snack Packs
- Movie Nights
- Video Games on the Big Screen
- Cookies and Consent – Sexual Assault, Consent, and Bystander Intervention
- Online Course, Tips and Information
- Alcohol/Drugs and the Athlete’s Body
- Spin Ball Tournament

HUMAN RESOURCES

| Position | Status |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Academic Advisor, General | Job Offer Pending |
| Assistant Director of Student Housing | Final Interview 10/24/2016 |
| Academic Advisor, Athletics | Screening |
| Student Equity Specialist | Screening |
| Program Grant Manager, Basic Skills | Initial committee meeting scheduled |
| Executive Assistant I, Student Services | Initial committee meeting scheduled |
| Electrician & HVAC Technician | First Review 10/27/2016 |
| Administrative Assistant II, Technology | First Review 10/3/2016 |
| Instructional Support Specialist, Fine Arts | First Review 10/28/2016 |
| Instructional Support Specialist, Performing Arts | First Review 10/28/2016 |

The annual Flu Shot Clinic for CVT members will be held on October 27 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. in ESTC 110. There will be an email sent out soon with details.

The Human Resources Department is continuing to go through many changes and updates. We have moved desks around, cleaned, and organized. New doors will soon be installed to ensure confidentiality in the HR Department. Your continued patience is appreciated while we experience these updates.

We are very excited to announce that we have selected an applicant tracking software! HireTouch, which is developed by ImageTrend, is in the early implementation stages. The software will allow candidates to apply through an online application. Hiring committees will be able to screen electronically. It will also streamline the onboarding process and will eliminate most of the need for paper. This software will ultimately help the HR Department in multiple ways and make the recruitment process overall faster. We are currently on schedule to have the new software fully implemented by the beginning of 2017. Please stay tuned for more details!

No other reports were submitted this month.