

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

September 13, 2016

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

For the second year in a row, College of the Siskiyous is on the list of the Top 15 California Community College for 2015-2016 as recognized by EDsmart.org. COS is listed as number two of five California Community Colleges on the list.

A Friendly Reminder – the Annual COS Foundation Scholarship Dinner is Saturday, October 15, at the Sons of Italy Hall; doors open at 5:30 p.m., buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m., and the program starts at 7:30 p.m. It would be great to see you there.

In August, we sent a team to a California Community Colleges (CCC) Workshop on College Promise programs. COS is one of twenty-three CCC's that have started a College Promise program. Attendees learned about effective practices in launching, funding, and sustaining College Promise programs.

We also sent a team to an Enrollment Management Plan workshop and expect that we will utilize information from this workshop in creating an Enrollment Management Plan for COS.

We are continuing to develop our College Day/COS Preview Day activities for Wednesday, September 21. There will be approximately 350 to 400 high school seniors on Campus that day and faculty participation is appearing to be very strong.

The Cafeteria is off to a great start as we have received positive comments on the food and prices from our students and their parents. We are still in the process of hiring food service workers, one full-time and one part-time, as well as numerous student workers.

The furniture that ASB ordered for the Student Center has arrived and has been installed by our Maintenance Staff. Our students are taking full advantage of the new seating and seem very pleased. 😊

The State Chancellors Office has informed us that the amount that we will be eligible for as a result of the upcoming Institutional Effectiveness Team visit has increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000. We look forward to requesting the full amount after our upcoming visits.

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. Dr. Todd Scott and I are on an Accreditation Team that will be visiting Monterey Peninsula College in October. We attended Team Training last week in Los Angeles. Dr. Greg South and Shawn Abbott are also serving on accreditation teams that will be visiting two other California Community Colleges this fall.

State and Federal Updates

The State Legislators sent a number of Bills to the Governor's desk for his consideration that will have an impact on California Community Colleges if the Governor approves them. The Governor has until September 30 to approve these bills.

November Election

It is a record-setting year for citizen initiatives. Californians will have a crowded ballot in November 2016 as voters will decide on a total of 17 ballot initiatives, the most for an election since 2000. For community colleges, two important initiatives are at stake, Proposition 51 and Proposition 55. Proposition 51 is a K-14 facilities bond. Proposition 55 is a temporary extension of tax-generated resources for schools and community colleges.

Proposition 51 - California Public Education Facilities Bond Initiative

The Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016, known as Proposition 51, would provide \$2 billion to community colleges for construction of new classrooms to accommodate enrollment growth, repair of health and safety issues, equipping classrooms with essential technology, and renovation of facilities.

Proposition 55 - California Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare Initiative:

The "Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016," or Proposition 55, would extend the current personal income rates which were established by Proposition 30 in 2012. :

The California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016 would temporarily extend for 12 years current tax rates on the wealthiest 2 percent of Californians, defined as singles earning more than \$250,000 and couples earning more than \$500,000 a year. The quarter-cent sales tax increase that was part of Proposition 30 expires as planned at the end of the year. The initiative would generate \$8 to \$11 billion per year. California Community colleges receive about \$200 million annually from the Education Protection Account.

- Revenues would continue to be deposited into the Education Protection Account, a dedicated fund where monies go directly to public schools and community colleges.
- Revenues would also be used to improve access to health care for low-income children and their families.
- Funding state reserves would be the next priority.
- Health care for the poor would receive 50 percent of the remaining money, with the rest going to the General Fund.

A yes vote on this measure means: Income tax increases on high-income taxpayers, which are scheduled to end after 2018, would instead be extended through 2030. A no vote on this measure means: Income tax increases on high-income taxpayers would expire as scheduled at the end of 2018.

Closure of ITT

In late August, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) took action against the parent company of ITT Technical Institutes to block the private technical college from enrolling additional students receiving federal aid. This action followed a lengthy period of increased scrutiny from ITT's accreditor, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, focused on lack of fiscal controls and stability, questionable recruitment practices, and poor student outcomes. ITT announced that it would suspend operations immediately. As many as 35,000 students at ITT campuses across the U.S. will be impacted.

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS



Public Information

Welcome Back!!! Wow! Where did our summer go??? On Thursday, August 11, during our Staff Orientation Day, we took this fabulous group photo of our COS family. A special thank you goes to all of our staff, faculty, trustees, and foundation members who volunteered to staff the COS information booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair.

Stay Connected: Now that school has started, it's a great time to sign up for our communication system, Everbridge. This is a free system we use to notify students and staff of emergency situations, campus closures, or general information. To sign up for this service, click on the Everbridge button located on the COS homepage.

COS Employees receive 2016/2017 Athletic Season passes for FREE! The pass is good for the employee only (including Board of Trustees, current part-time faculty and employees) to attend all COS home athletic events in 2016-2017 (Excludes post season or tournament play). In addition, if you would like to purchase additional passes for the full season, the price is greatly reduced - \$25 Staff Special! To receive your pass, contact Dawnie at the Weed Campus.

Athletic Season Passes for the community, parents, and everyone else to attend football and basketball events are also on sale as follows:

- 2016 Football (only) Season Pass (good for two people) - \$25 per pass
- 2016-2017 Football and Basketball (Men's and Women's) Season Pass (good for two people) - \$75 per pass (total real value is approximately \$165 – this is a savings of more than 50 percent per pass)
- 2016-2017 Basketball (Men's and Women's) Season Pass (good for two people) - \$50 per pass

COS Preview Day and College Fair Event

College of the Siskiyous and College OPTIONS will host a COS Preview Day and College Fair at the Weed Campus on Wednesday, September 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The COS Preview Day will offer the high school students the opportunity to meet COS faculty and staff; view demonstrations; gather information on COS academic programs; and have fun. The College Fair hosts representatives from other colleges and universities. High school seniors and their parents, current COS students, or any student who would like to attend the College Fair are invited to stop by the Weed Campus on September 21.



Foundation

Applications Now Available

The COS Foundation invites staff and faculty to apply for a Foundation Mini Grant. The purpose of these awards is to offer wider monetary support for innovative educational opportunities at COS. It is expected that proposals will enhance the College's ability to strengthen its programs and services; support faculty and staff development within a learning community environment; and/or support the use of technology for enhancing the educational opportunities of students, staff, and faculty. Award amounts up to \$1,000 will be considered for funding. Applications are due to the Public Relations/Foundation Office by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 16. Each funded applicant will have until May 31, 2017, to spend the award. Announcement of mini-grant recipients will be made at the October Planning Day event.



Who Will Win the Coat of Many Colors This Year?

Tickets for the 32nd Annual COS Foundation Scholarship Dinner and Dessert/Coat of Many Colors Auction are now 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.

Volunteers Welcome!!

Angel Fisher, Manager of the Eagle's Nest, is looking for new volunteers to join the Eagle's Nest team. Volunteers work three to four 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. The Eagles Nest is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Join the COS Eagle Booster Club Today

Over the past several years, due to budget cuts at the State level, we have had to find new and creative ways to support our athletic programs at COS. We know athletics are an important part of many of our student's lives and it shows in how well our students perform, both in and out of the classroom. Becoming a member of the Eagle Booster Club is an opportunity to show your support of College of the Siskiyous, and at the same time makes a difference in the lives of our student athletes. All donations to the COS Eagle Booster Club are tax-deductible.

September Events

- September 2: Last day to drop without posting "W" on record
- September 3: Football vs. Chabot College, 1 p.m. (Weed Campus Stadium) – Tailgate Party at the Tennis Courts from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- September 5: Labor Day Holiday/Campuses Closed
- September 9: Volleyball vs. DeAnza College, 12 p.m. (Gym) and Cosumnes River College at 3:30 p.m. (Gym); DeAnza College vs. Cosumnes River College at 2 p.m. (Gym)
- September 13: COS Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m. Open Public Session (Board Room)
- September 17: Football vs. DeAnza College, 1 p.m. (Weed Campus Stadium) – Tailgate Party at the Tennis Courts from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- September 21: COS Preview Day/College Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Weed Campus)
- September 23: Last day to petition pass/no pass option
- September 28: Volleyball vs. Simpson, 7 p.m. (Gym)
- September 30: Women's & Men's Soccer, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. (Baseball Outfield)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

August always brings an air of excitement and anticipation with the students coming back on campus and activity increasing.

Food Services

Food Service is still in the process of getting fully staffed. The meal cards are going well and are available for anyone on campus to purchase. They are reloadable cards, making it more convenient for grabbing your lunch. The menus for specials (lunch and dinner) are being posted weekly so you can plan on joining us for a meal. Don't forget that you can always get your dinner to go after a long day at school.

The staff is still working on the process but things are going really well. The standard menu may be changing as they see what the demand is for various items. They are also increasing the types of items that are already prepared and in the cold boxes for grab-and-go items.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Department has been working on a variety of beginning of the year projects both in Weed and Yreka. Things are looking pretty awesome on both campuses. There have been a variety of office moves and related activity. This Department keeps hopping.

Technology

We continue to have meetings, teleconferences, and reports with (and from) Ellucian. Work is really getting rolling on our huge project. Today's topic was the finance revitalization and all that surrounds that area.

The technicians have been busy with beginning of the year tasks and making sure everyone has been ready for school starting. They have also been busy supporting the launch of Canvas for the instructional folks.

Bookstore

On Saturday July 30, the Bookstore opened while students started moving into the Lodges. This was a great opportunity to greet some of our new and returning students back to school for the fall. Many students stopped by with their parents to pick up their textbooks, Siskiyous clothing and souvenirs. Bookstore Supervisor, Ryan Galbraith, gave a Bookstore Operation Overview presentation at the Part-Time Faculty Orientation on August 4 and at the Staff Orientation Day on August 11.

The COS Foundation has provided Siskiyou County 2016 high school graduates with a \$200 book voucher for the Bookstore through the Siskiyou Promise. As of September 7, 69 students have taken advantage of the Siskiyou Promise Book Voucher. Thank you to the COS Foundation for helping to keep many of our great local students at College of the Siskiyous; we have seen great appreciation for this offering from parents and students!

Textbook rentals continue to be a popular cost savings option for students. The Bookstore has rented 672 textbooks for the fall semester (up from 461 last fall); accounting for about 22 percent of all book sales. The Bookstore is also renting TI-84+ graphing calculators for use in Elementary Statistics (MATH 1050) courses. The graphing calculators can be rented for \$50 per semester; so far, 49 students have chosen this option.

A great selection of new College of the Siskiyous clothing, hats, and souvenirs arrived just in time for the start of this semester. This year, the Bookstore is excited to offer t-shirts to support all of our athletic teams along with theater production t-shirts. We design all of these graphics ourselves with each group in mind. Thank you to students, staff, and teams who give input on these designs. The Bookstore Account Clerk, Shondi Farris, is becoming a graphic design wizard as she turns ideas into the graphics seen on many of the items in the Bookstore. Keep an eye out for weekly "Item of the Week" specials at the Bookstore. You can find these special deals on the Bookstore's Facebook page (@SiskiyousBookstore).

INSTRUCTION

Sadly, this will be the last Board of Trustees meeting that I will be wearing the Coat of Many Colors, because Dawnie must have it de-loused, cleaned, and repaired from a year of overuse before it is enthroned upon another soul.

Since the last Board of Trustees meeting, the fall semester is under way. I must say that it is more difficult to find a parking spot, which is good news. I have been continuing my investigation of opportunities for non-credit offerings. On August 16, Jeremiah LaRue and I visited the Day Reporting Center in Yreka and made some good connections.

With the support of faculty and staff, we have resurrected the potential for a compressed calendar, which I will be presenting to the Board for their approval, to hopefully begin with the 2017-2018 academic year.

I have been meeting this summer with some leaders in the County exploring ideas to prepare students in this area for the workforce. Conversations continue, we have made some good progress, and we will be developing a group to lead this initiative.

I have participated in accreditation team training for a visit with President Thomason to another community college; this will help me more fully understand the accreditation process as the COS Accreditation Liaison Officer. I have also attended initial training to be part of an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative team to visit another community college. We have an IEPI team visiting us in late October to help us with data process and student learning assessment opportunities.

Students have been taking advantage of our Reg365 initiative. Some of the classes are already full and this gives us the opportunity to add additional sections of high-demand classes.

Adult Education Pathways

Adult Education Pathways' (AEP) vision is to revitalize adult education in all areas of Siskiyou County including Tulelake. The county is very vast so it is important to maintain services throughout Siskiyou County for any and all adult learners. This vision includes streamlining services, while offering common curriculum, diploma completion, parenting education, pre-apprenticeship/internships, English as a Second Language, citizenship, and career readiness. Starting the 2015 school year, Siskiyou County only had three adult schools in operation. To better serve all population pockets, AEP opened three additional schools in spring of 2016. Schools are now operating in Tulelake, Butte Valley, Scott Valley, Yreka, Dunsmuir, and the Mount Shasta School District which serves Mount Shasta, Weed, and Happy Camp.



To kick off the 2016 school year, the consortium decided to send a post card to every zip code in Siskiyou County to invite the community to attend an adult school to help finish high school or further their career. Adult schools are already seeing an increase in enrollments around the county. With the creation of AB 104 and the realignment of Adult Education, the State has two large goals. One is to increase the number of non-high school completers attending community college. Second is that these learners receive enough training and skills to obtain an occupation.

SIGN UP TODAY!
adulteducationpathways.org

HOLISTIC SUPPORT SERVICES

- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
- CERTIFICATIONS
- ESL PROGRAM
- PARENT EDUCATION
- HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY
- WORKFORCE RE-ENTRY
- TRANSPORTATION
- WORK SKILLS / INTERNSHIPS
- GED SUPPORT
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT

FREE FREE SERVICES!
MULTIPLE EDUCATION SITES AVAILABLE INCLUDING YREKA, MOUNT SHASTA, SCOTT VALLEY, HAPPY CAMP, BUTTE VALLEY, DUNSMUIR AND TULELAKE.

800 College Ave, Siskiyou, CA | **530-938-5558**



Adult Education Pathways
Siskiyou Adult Education Consortium
800 College Ave, Weed, CA 96094

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!
facebook.com/adulteducationpathway

*State-sponsored program through the Adult Education Block Grant

YOUR CAREER IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

ADULT EDUCATION PATHWAYS

EDUCATION **SUPPORT** **CAREER**

If you know someone that is in need of a high school diploma, GED, or just wants to further their career have them contact Blaine Smith. Email: bsmith29@siskiyous.edu Office: 530-938-5251.

Website: <http://adulteducationpathways.org/>

STUDENT SERVICES

Vice President of Student Services

Wow – the middle of September already! Once August hits, it's all-hands-on-deck, full-steam ahead for Student Services. I believe I speak on the behalf of the entire Student Services staff when I say, "whew!"

At this year's Orientation Day, Student Services reported on the Student Complaint and Grievance process, Sexual Harassment, and the Behavior Intervention Team. If you'd like more information, please go to our new webpage at <http://www.siskiyous.edu/student-services/>. If you have any questions or concerns about a student, please feel free to call us at (530) 938-5374 or email us at StudentServices@siskiyous.edu. Or, you may also email the Behavior Intervention Team at BIT@siskiyous.edu.

College Preview Day is September 21. We anticipate over 300 local high school students to be on campus and will have information tables in the quad and demonstrations in the parking lot and in classrooms. Additionally, the Gym will have representatives from various universities on hand to meet with both College of the Siskiyous and high school students. Please check it out and join the excitement!

Finally, Director of Financial Aid - Jan Harris, Director of Marketing and Foundation - Dawnie Slabaugh, and I attended the California Promise meeting in Oakland at the end of August. We all agreed that it was a worthwhile trip and brought back lots of good ideas from other California Community Colleges. Jan Harris did a wonderful job articulating our experience below, under Financial Aid (please read). I'll keep you posted as we continue to improve our services to prospective and new students.

Admissions and Records

Admissions: We are working on opening our CCC Apply application two weeks early for the COS Preview Day on September 21. Look for an Application Workshop on that date.

Registration: We are now processing first census for full-term classes and are processing over 600 registration forms for ISA and special programs.

Banner: We are still working on Phase 1 of the Banner Enhancement project and will soon be implementing process changes to improve efficiencies and accuracy.

Transcripts: We processed 875 transcripts since August 1 and will continue throughout the year.



Beautiful fall scene display case courtesy of Mary Mericle in Admissions and Records.

Counseling and Student Success

Assessment

We recently received notice from the folks heading the Common Assessment Initiative that more field testing is being required by the California Community College Chancellor's Office prior to their approval of the instrument. This means, there will be a delay in timeline for the Early Adopters (we are a part of this group). ACT COMPASS will no longer be available beginning November 30, and the CCCAssess staff is working towards a solution for the schools using COMPASS. We are currently using a multiple measures system of placement for math. Valerie has been in contact with the English faculty regarding meeting to determine a similar placement methodology for reading and writing until the Common Assessment is available and ready for use.

Counseling and Advising

We are happy to welcome Lauri Hunner, License Clinical Social Worker, to our staff as a part-time personal counselor. Lauri has worked in a variety of capacities including serving as the Director of Siskiyou County Behavioral Health for several years. She will be on campus and available to students several hours each week. Students can make appointments to see Lauri by calling the Counseling and Student Support Programs office at 938-5353.

Our Programs By The Numbers

CalWORKs

There are currently 18 students in our CalWORKs program. Of those, 6 have requested and are required to participate in CalWORKs Work Study. All CalWORKs Work Study students are working on campus.

DSPS

We are currently serving 135 students, but that number will increase as fall semester continues on.

EOPS

We currently have 209 students eligible for fall semester. For the first time ever, we did a “last chance orientation” for students who applied, were eligible, but didn’t attend one of the previously scheduled orientations. That additional orientation made nine students eligible for the program and a \$400 book voucher.

Foster Youth

We have 15 students in our Foster Youth Success Program. Shannon has been invited to present on College of the Siskiyous to the Charlie Byrd Youth Correctional Center by the Foster Youth Services Liaison/Homeless Youth Coordinator at Siskiyou County Office of Education.

SSS

To date we have accepted 55 students into the SSS program. Several students applied to the program, but are not registered for fall semester. They are being contacted and encouraged to enroll in spring classes. SSS accepts applications on-going, and our requirement is to serve 180 students within each academic year.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid is all about the numbers, right?! So far we have awarded 468 students a Pell Grant. This week we have awarded 86 students a Cal Grant B. Out of those 86 students, we awarded 69 students the Full-Time Student Success Grant. We also awarded 16 students a Cal Grant C. We will be disbursing federal direct loans beginning September 23.

During the week of August 29, Sierra College sent two of their staff members to assist our Financial Aid Office with students who were selected by the Department of Education for verification and Cal Grants. They worked really hard, offered advice and support, and most importantly, got us caught up! Because of them, we were able to disburse our Cal Grants according to our advertised disbursement date and award Pell grants to students who had to wait through a lengthy verification process. I’d like to thank Scotty for his continued support of our Financial Aid Office during this busy time. It’s impressive to see the comradery and support between our California Community Colleges.

On August 30, I attended the California College Promise Conference with Melissa Green and Dawnie Slabaugh in Oakland, California. It was a day-long event full of information regarding the Promise and several schools sharing their experiences. This effort not only includes our college’s outreach to our local high school students, but is a community-wide effort that can involve our city mayors, our school superintendent, various businesses, and local Chamber of Commerce to name a few. It was so exciting to hear the effect that the Promise program can have on a community, in addition to the students who might not have considered attending their local community college. An impressive sight was after the Mayor of Oakland, the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, and the Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District shared their Promise experiences, they stood on the stage with their hands held in the air showing the unity that it took to make their Promise a successful one! I think we have an exciting opportunity to not only support our local high school students but to involve our communities as well.

Student Life

The ASB Elections for senator positions was held on September 8. The newly elected senators will be nominating officers at their September 15 board meeting.

Our Resident Advisors in the Lodges hosted the Siskiyou Crisis Center for a program titled “Cookies and Consent.” At the program, Lodges’ students had the opportunity to talk about how sexual assault is affecting college students across the country, and how they can make a difference here.



The new charging station located in the Student Center, courtesy of ASB.

Last year, on September 8, 2015, we had 125 Lodge residents. On September 8, 2016, we increased the number to 133 Lodge residents.

Wishing everyone a great fall semester!



New Student Center Furniture, funded through the Student Center fee, chosen by ASB.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Open Enrollment for CVT Insurance Benefits is almost here! A representative from CVT will be on campus September 21 and 22. There will be both individual appointments and group sessions. Please watch for an email with more information on how to make an individual appointment and the schedule for group sessions.

The Human Resources Department is going through many changes. We are moving desks, furniture, and have created a room dedicated for screening applications by committee members and question review for our candidates.

Position	Status
Academic Advisor, Upward Bound	Job Offer Pending
Academic Advisor, Athletics	First Review Extended to 9/22/2016
Academic Advisor, General	Job Offer Pending
Financial Aid Processing Specialist	Job Offer Pending
Food Services Assistant (2 positions)	Job Offer Pending (both positions)
Food Services Cook	Job Offer Pending
Assistant Director of Student Housing	References Checked
Administrative Assistant II, Technology	First Review 10/3/2016
Student Equity Specialist	First Review 9/23/2016
Program Grant Manager, Basic Skills	First Review 9/26/2016
Executive Assistant I, Student Services	First Review 9/28/2016

ACADEMIC SENATE

Students and faculty are back on campus in full force and the Academic Senate immediately went to work setting goals for 2016-2017. At its September 8 meeting, the Academic Senate set the following goals for 2016-2017:

- Clarify and revise, as needed, the participatory governance processes in order to facilitate greater faculty input in all aspects of college decision making, especially regarding hiring processes and procedures, summer equivalencies, and budgeting;
- Clarify and streamline the processes for curriculum and program review by codifying our processes and bringing them to the Academic Senate for review and approval;
- Revise and update the Senate Constitution as needed and create a set of standing rules for day-to-day operations.

Faculty are currently struggling to understand the full and complete budget process, especially as it relates to non-faculty hiring. Faculty use a program review process to recommend new hire or replacement hires to the institution. There does not appear to be a uniform and/or similar program review process used by non-academic areas at COS to facilitate hiring. Over the next couple months, the Senate will be working toward refining its program review process and working toward a better understanding of how non-faculty hiring decisions are made.

Senior day is just around the corner and high school seniors from all over will be on campus. Many faculty have volunteered their time to make this event as successful as possible, from supervising a program booth to giving teaching demonstrations for the students.

One major task ahead of us is the restructuring of the COS general education program with the goal of creating a more accessible and assessable general education program that provides students with the core courses needed to be an informed and participatory citizen in today's (and tomorrow's) world. For over a year, a taskforce of faculty has poured over multiple drafts of a new general program. After much debate, the taskforce is ready for the full Senate to take action. On October 7, the Senate will meet in the afternoon to finalize the new structure and then start placing courses in general education areas. It will be a difficult task but one we can complete. Thank you to Scotty and Todd for setting aside the afternoon of Planning Day in October for the Senate to get this work done.

At its last meeting, the Senate voted to endorse the IEPI standards that the Board approved in June, 2016. Next, the Senate and the Institutional Researcher will be working together to create a set of Institutional Set Standards, which are required by various state agencies. These standards are minimums that the Institution expects to achieve annually.

Faculty are also finalizing their 2015-2016 Program Reviews. CurricUNET technical issues continue to slow the process. Hopefully, CurricUNET will be more responsive to our requests this year as we try to refine our processes. The Curriculum Committee will be bringing a curriculum handbook to the Academic Senate for ratification by the end of the semester. Likewise, the Program Review Committee will be bringing its process forward for Senate ratification as well.

Finally, the Senate is very excited to see the 16-Week Calendar make its way to the Board for their approval. The Senate voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that COS move to a 16-Week calendar because the faculty firmly believe that the new calendar will improve the academic lives of students, improve student learning, and increase FTES at College of the Siskiyous.

No other reports were submitted this month.