



# THE PACRA PACER

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## INTERESTING WORDS FROM THE PAST

The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter.

Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Edward Carrington

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of PACRA will be held on June 1, 2002, with details to be announced in a direct mailing. Officers to be elected include the positions of secretary, of treasurer, and of a member-at-large.

## SCHOLARSHIP

The rules for awarding the PACRA scholarship remain the same: the recipient must be a relative of a PACRA member, have a GPA of 3.2, and be chosen by the PACRA Board. A request from the Palomar College Foundation that PACRA scholarship matters be handled by the Foundation was turned down by the PACRA Board of Directors in

December 2, 2001, with the decision that such matters would be handled by our Board of Directors as in previous years.

## FUNDING (MONEY, THAT IS)

The largest amount of money for operating and maintaining Palomar Colleges comes from the State. Since the passage of Proposition 13, very little funding support comes from local taxation. So when the State cuts its support of colleges and universities the individual community college must make reductions even when enrollments and costs are growing.

Any reduction in staff or faculty must be announced by the local Governing Board of each community college by March 15, according to law. The State Legislature or Governor will not announce the reduced state budget until the end of May, so local boards cannot be certain what cuts will have to be made, President Amador has said. Before the March 15 deadline, the local Board told the counseling department that it may lose five positions for next year.

## SOURCES OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

An editorial in the *San Diego Union*

*Tribune* in early March, 2002, explains better than other attempts the reason for the current problems and the need for action now to take care of greater problems soon to be faced. The editorial, stressing the community colleges of the southern part of San Diego County, is equally applicable to Palomar and to MiraCosta Community Colleges. With the kind permission of the *San Diego Union Tribune* we reprint the document.

## HIGH NEGLECT

### State Mistreats its 107 Community Colleges

Unless California's 107 community colleges receive the financial assistance due them from Sacramento, many will have to turn away thousands of students in coming years. That could have a most devastating effect on the state's economic well-being than either Gov. Gray Davis or most state lawmakers seem to comprehend.

Chancellor Thomas Nussbaum suggested as much when he briefed an Assembly budget subcommittee on the dangers of allowing the community college system to atrophy in order to balance the state's books. Compelling these colleges, which educate nearly 1.7 million students, to cut back any further would be unconscionable.

It's shameful enough that community colleges are being short-changed by the Legislature, which routinely deprives them of

their fair share of the Proposition 98 pie. The voter-approved measure stipulates that the colleges receive 11 percent of the money earmarked for public education. But each year lawmakers suspend that provision, which to date has cost the colleges approximately \$2 billion.

Most community colleges are clipped again by an unfair funding formula that is based on the 1978 property tax rates frozen in place by Proposition 13. Even though property taxes locally are considerably higher than they were 24 years ago, our colleges continue to be shortchanged. That's why the San Diego, Grossmont-Cuyamaca and Southwestern college districts rank near the bottom in state funding.

In 2000, the Legislature passed a modest measure that would have begun to address the funding disparity. It was vetoed by the self-professed education governor. His veto language suggested the matter needed to be dealt with in a broader context. That's governor-speak for: "Why should I alienate vote-rich regions like Los Angeles and San Francisco that are faring quite well under the current funding formula, particularly when the community colleges themselves have no political clout?"

Clout counts for a great deal in Sacramento, where savvy lobbyists know who to see to get what they want. No wonder community colleges receive a fraction of per-

student state expenditures when compared with the UC and CSU systems.

The Davis administration touts a \$104 million net funding increase for community colleges in his proposed budget. But that same budget would slash \$122 million from several categorical programs, including one designed to help welfare recipients find work. Factor in last year's \$66 million cut in maintenance and equipment funds and one begins to understand the magnitude of the problem confronting the college system.

California's community colleges have been treated like stepchildren for far too long. Rather than patronize them with empty rhetoric, Davis and the Legislature should regard them as valuable assets that provide a wide array of affordable classes to students of modest means.

—courtesy of the *San Diego Union Tribune*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Palomar's new president, Dr. Sherrill Amador, is leading the staff and faculty into the initial steps of strategic planning governing the next several years. Steps in strategic planning will form the basis for decisions at all levels as circumstances change over the years. The specific objectives for now and the future will tie to the strategic goals.

Some notes from a February, 2002, meeting of the Educational and

Facilities Master Plan Task Force give possible directions to the future. The Master Plan will cover the "whole District, not just the San Marcos campus." Dr. Amador stated they "will look at growth in the District and decide the logical plan for new buildings or sites."

After information has been collected from departments, demographic information and projections will be entered. During the summer of 2002 the plan will be written, with teams creating a one-page departmental plan. By the fall of 2002, these will have been assembled into a first draft and distributed to all groups in the College. From this stage, modifications will be made with a prioritized order given to the educational and facilities goals, leading to a finished product for Government Board review by March, 2003.

One very important decision will be on the question of the San Marcos campus: shall it be expanded, shall we create more centers, or should we build a second campus. A center has up to 4,500 students while a campus has over 4,500 students.

## GROWING?

You bet we are, we're growing, over 30,000 students now, and we haven't yet seen the full effects of the great flow of students now in high schools and elementary schools. In the next ten years, the colleges of California expect enrollment increases of up

to 36 percent. This is the highest since the baby boom during the 1960's. President Amador is quoted in *The Telescope*, saying that "it's going to be a major issue with the State. The State is not prepared for it."

While community colleges receive state funds based on how many students attend the school, if more than originally planned for and approved by the State, the school receives no additional funds. This is the situation in more than half of California's community colleges now, amounting to about 27,000 students which are unfunded by the State.

Growth in enrollments will cause very expensive issues in creating new facilities. Only a few University of California campuses have room to grow, but these do include San Diego, Irvine, and Riverside. Several UC campuses are planning to expand their summer programs, but this will have little effect on community colleges because they are year-round colleges already. Two possibilities for community colleges are expanding Saturday classes and looking into classes on Sunday.

### **SCHOOL BONDS FOR CONSTRUCTION**

The State Assembly has approved a call for construction bonds for the state ballot in November, 2002, for \$13 billion and for \$12.3 billion in March, 2004. The Governor has indicated that he will sign the bill. If voters approve them, the State funding will be used to provide a 50-50 match for local

funds (55% approval required).

The \$25 billion bond issue would be paid from the state general fund over decades. It provides \$4 billion for higher education, of which 40% would go to community colleges, with 30% to the State Universities and 30% to the University of California. Another provision allows higher education to separately issue \$650 million worth of revenue bonds to be paid off by other sources.

### **RECENT RETIREMENTS**

Jean F. Landmesser, director/professor in the Dental Assistant program, effective May 20, 2002.

Evelyn F. Treais, professor in English as a Second Language, effective December 22, 2002.

Delores J. Clark, Instruction Support Assistant II, Reading Services, effective January 8, 2002.

Robert H. Branch, professor in Communications Department, effective August 18, 2002.

Patricia S. Draggaman, academic department assistant, Computer Sciences and Information Systems, effective December 28, 2001.

John C. Whiteside, custodian, Custod-

ial Services, effective January 1, 2002.

### RECENT LOSSES OF RETIREES

Mrs. Mary Fulton, former director/professor, Nursing Education, died on March 5, 2002, in Upland, at age 92. In 1966, she, with guidance from Dean Charles Coutts and a professional advisory committee, established the Nursing Education program at Palomar. A long-time active member of PACRA, she retired in 1978.

Mr. Joseph Abreu, professor, Photography, died on March 8, 2002, in Vista, at age 65. He began teaching at Palomar in September, 1975, after service in the U. S. Marine Corps. He was an active member of PACRA, retiring in June 1991.

Mrs. Frances Howard, former Library Services in Phil H. Putnam Memorial Library, died February 1, 2002, at her home in Escondido. She was employed in September 1969, and retired in 1983, a long time member of PACRA.

### STUDENT CENTER

A large portion of the Student Center, first constructed with district bond funds in 1958 and enlarged with district funds some years later, has been removed to make room for a much larger Student Center with two stories. The \$3 million Student Center will

be paid for from bonds sold by the California Community College Financing Authority and paid back over 30 years from a student fee approved by the students themselves in 1998 and from bookstore profits.

We expect to have an enlarged story with photographs in the November issue of *The PACRA PACER*.

### MEMORIAL FUNDS

Memorial funds have been received from the Language Institute of China in memory of Richard Norlin, and from the Foreign Language Department in honor of Mrs. Marilyn C. Burke, and funds in the memory of Mr. James Felton. Jim was an active member of the PACRA Board at the time of his death. Mrs. Burke was very active in The Patrons as well as in PACRA.

### RETIRES AND INSURANCE

While the employees and the administration of the College are studying unionization, the retirees may wonder where their interests will be represented. The Board of Directors of PACRA addressed this issue at its meeting on April 10, 2002, and came to the conclusion that we will maintain a watchful attitude for we are interested in retaining the secondary insurance (for life) which has been available in the past.

### CHILD CARE CENTER FEES

Fees for half day care at the Child Care Center are now \$18, raised from \$15, and \$22 against \$18 for a full day. These fees will affect about 100 families who do not qualify for state children support. At the present time there are about 380 children on the children's waiting list, with about 200 attending the care centers on the San Marcos and the Escondido campuses.

### NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES

Next year, Palomar will offer classes in Luiseno language for credit. This is believed to be the first language spoken here. Also classes in

Cupeno language will be offered on a trial basis. Luiseno, one of 90 languages used in California before any European languages, is the native language of several tribes of North County and Riverside County, including the Rincon, La Jolla, Pechanga, Pauma, and Pala groups. The Cupeno language is used by a group of Pala Indians.

**A hard fact:** The Palomar Community College District, is a large one, 500 square miles larger than the state of Delaware.

**Keep in mind:** There is a divinity that shapes our ends, Rough hew them how we will.  
Shakespeare, Hamlet, v. 11. 10.

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