



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT – KEVIN TRUTNA, ED.D.
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

FRC continues to amaze me with the positive work that is accomplished throughout the college. This month has been a flurry of activities and I want to highlight several important shared governance processes that are occurring: see a report below from Karen Pierson (item #3) regarding the critical discussion from the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee and how we should plan our future FTES. I would encourage everyone to work with your representative on the committee through this important discussion. The Technology Plan and the Educational Master Plan are both in their final stages of development before adoption. At the state level, the Chancellors Office is educating Californians about the impact of cuts to our community college budgets. The Board of Governors passed new priority enrollment guidelines whereby certain students who have earned 100 units cannot be included in priority registration; this is part of the Student Success Task Force implementation process. At the local level, I continue to advocate and look for ways to bring back some type of Good Neighbor policy for FRC students.

1. STUDENTS

Starting my report with students, I am pleased to announce that ASFRC has elected two officers: Timeisha Seymour (President) and Franklin Mullen (VP/Director of Student Activities). Athletics are in full swing and Don Williams reports that our men's soccer team is ranked #3 in the state and #11 in the nation. The women's soccer team and volleyball team are also highly ranked in Northern California. In the past month, I have visited approximately 20 classes, discovering such topics as circumstantial evidence in the O.J. Simpson trial, how the term B.C. is now referred to as B.C.E. in history, watched professors push students to think deeper during the writing process, and witnessed faculty members trying to connect and learn something unique about each student in their classroom. FRC is a fascinating learning institution and the caring attitude for students is evident in every classroom visit I make. My tours of the Nursing facility and the Equine Program really showed how the programs are student centered. I had the opportunity to speak with the first semester Nursing class, watch a women's soccer game against Sierra College, and recently met everyone on the men's basketball team.

2. PAST MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

- a. August 23: Participated in FRC Night with the Downtown Merchants, meeting several store owners and introducing myself on behalf of the college
- b. August 27: Attended Rotary supporting Karen Pierson's "FRC Report to the Community"
- c. August 29: Met with CSEA President Katie Schmid
- d. August 29: Joined Jim Scoubes in meeting with Umpqua Bank representatives about securing a line of credit
- e. August 29: Attended a Foundation BMC quarterly meeting regarding the dormitory funding
- f. August 30: Met with Board Vice-Chair John Sheehan regarding the upcoming BOT meeting
- g. August 31: Met with Feather River Federation of Teachers President Mike Welser

- h. September 4: Met with Associate Faculty Union President Mick Presnell
 - i. September 6: Joined Derek Lerch and staff from California Mini-Corps (Assistant Superintendent Ernesto Ruiz and Joseph Munoz) in a meeting to explore expanding our partnership in training future teachers
 - j. September 10: Met with Foundation President Kris Miravalle to discuss future directions and goals
 - k. September 12: Met with Trustee Leah West
 - l. September 14: Attended ACCCA Mentor Program Fall Retreat
 - m. September 18: Met with Student Trustee Jacquie Davis
 - n. September 19: Visited the FRC College & Career Fair
 - o. September 19: Attended a Foundation Executive Board Meeting
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3. STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT (SEM) COMMITTEE DISCUSSION – WHAT SHOULD FRC LOOK LIKE?

CSSO Karen Pierson reports: The SEM committee met on September 5th for its inaugural meeting with all members of this shared governance committee present. As per AP 2510 the role of SEM is to develop, oversee, and communicate the college's enrollment management plan which includes enrollment goals, recruitment/marketing goals, persistence/retention data, and evaluation/assessment/research information. In recent years this committee has focused on understanding the threats we face to maintaining current FTES levels, some of which include the loss of the Good Neighbor program, increasing fees for residents, and stricter guidelines for establishing in-state residency for tuition purposes. The committee also focused on developing a recruitment plan and assuring there was adequate time spent on recruiting activities. However, **the committee has now turned their attention to the question of setting enrollment goals**, and has reviewed data regarding the four major components of the college's total FTES. These categories include: on campus students, contract education students, and incarcerated students (ISP). The committee suggested a fourth category be added to include students who take courses exclusively online. While our current FTES target is 1623, it will be reduced to 1505 if Proposition 30 does not pass. **The committee is seeking input on the appropriate FTES goal by student category, as this will help guide our recruitment efforts. There is also a question related to our focus on retention as well as recruitment.** These questions, and supporting data and input from all constituencies will guide our discussion this coming year.

4. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHANCELLOR OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Many of you have seen the press release and resultant articles throughout the state and nation about the recently released survey from the CCCCCO. The press release headline says it all - *Budget Cuts Result in Historic Enrollment Decline at California Community Colleges*. California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott announced that budget cuts have resulted in an historic 17 percent drop in enrollment at the state's community colleges over the past three years, impairing the ability of colleges to produce the skilled workforce that California's economy needs, and colleges report that enrollment will drop even further this academic year. "Over the past three years we've lost more students than are enrolled at all California State University campuses combined," Scott said.

Funding for community colleges has been cut \$809 million, or 12 percent, over the past three years. Colleges face another \$338 million cut in January if Proposition 30 does not pass. Scott also noted that from 2008-09 to 2011-12, course sections (classes) have declined nearly 24 percent system-wide.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office conducted an informal survey of colleges in August 2012 to get a sense of what students can expect to experience this fall and to determine the cumulative impact of budget cuts. Here are the trends for this fall:

- Seventy (70) percent of colleges responding to the survey report they will have lower enrollment in fall 2012 compared to the fall of 2011.
- Seventy (70) percent of colleges responding to the survey report offering fewer course sections (classes) this fall compared to last fall.
- Eighty-seven (87) percent of colleges say they have reduced staffing levels over the past year to cope with budget cuts.
- Eighty (80) percent of colleges reported having waitlists for fall classes, with each college having an average of 7,252 students on its waitlists.

Feather River College has experienced a drop in enrollment due to the workload reduction. Our incredible faculty and staff have bent over backwards to accommodate the students who have registered. In my informal discussions with students on campus, they were able to enroll in classes; perhaps not their first choice of classes, but they were able to enroll in necessary classes to work toward degrees and certificates. The entire Chancellor's Office report can be viewed at http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/DocDownloads/PressReleases/AUG2012/PR_BudgetImpactSurveyQuestions_082812_FINAL.pdf

5. RATIONING HIGHER EDUCATION IS POOR PUBLIC POLICY

On my first day as Interim Superintendent/President at Feather River College (FRC), the Chips Fire was burning along the side of the road as I drove up Highway 70 on my way to work. This setting is the perfect metaphor for the current economic situation in Plumas County and the State of California. The Chips Fire was contained through the effort and determination of several firefighting agencies and an adequate investment in resources, even though we are currently mired in a poor economy. Right now California is at a similar crossroads – we must decide whether to fund an economic turnaround fueled by a trained and educated workforce or watch our state burn away like the initial stages of the Chips Fire. I am often asked by students and community members alike, “If your classes are full, why don’t you just open up more sections?” The cold, hard reality is that the UC and CSU systems have limited their enrollments and now California Community Colleges are being forced to limit, or ration, the education and training for California residents. If the statewide economy is to thrive, it is imperative that California Community Colleges are fully supported to complete their mission.

Higher education in California has largely followed a three-tiered master plan: the top 5-10% of high school graduates are usually eligible for enrollment in the UC system, the top 30% are potential CSU enrollees, and community colleges are open access institutions for those who have the ability to benefit from post-secondary education. Community colleges, like Feather River College, focus on transfer

courses, basic skills education, and career/technical training. Schools like Feather River College prepare student to enter the workforce, transfer to a four-year university, or obtain the basic skills necessary to succeed in higher level courses. The California Education Master Plan was designed to provide access to post-secondary educational institutions for all of California.

Why are community colleges important? Over 80% of the state's firefighters, EMTs, and police officers are trained at a community college. Another 70% of nurses are educated at a community college. In addition, 55% of CSU graduates and 28% of UC graduates started at a community college. Of the students who earned a degree in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from the UC system, 28% transferred from a community college. The impact of the 2.4 million students in the California Community College System is the lifeline behind California and its standing as the 9th largest economy in the world.

What about Plumas County? For every \$1 California invests in students who graduate from college, we receive a return of \$4.50 throughout the state. The operating budget of Feather River College approaches \$12 million and our yearly headcount is approximately 3,400 students. Programs like the FRC Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) are directly responsible for 300 Plumas County websites since 2009 including 7.2 million hits on the various Plumas County Chamber of Commerce websites, over \$750,000 revenue for one local business, 63 jobs were created or retained in Quincy businesses, and a resultant \$11 million multiplier effect to recirculate the revenue throughout Plumas County. Based upon our internal research, each \$1 of the FRC budget directly generates \$1.64 in the local economy. Feather River College is a major contributor to the economic growth and vitality in Plumas County and Northeastern California.

Now for the bad news. Feather River College, like all California Community Colleges, has been reduced by 12% in the past three years due to legislative budget cuts. Enrollments have dropped 17% systemwide as classes have been cut and services limited. The UC and CSU systems limit their student enrollments due to their own particular mission and more recently, due to statewide budget reductions. Now community colleges, like FRC, are similarly required to reduce course sections, eliminate student services, and make difficult decisions about academic programs that provide opportunities for transfer, basic skills education, career/technical job training, and fill needs within our community. Funding will be reduced by another 7% if voters reject Proposition 30 on the November ballot. Note that FRC must maintain its open access mission; instead FRC must reduce the number of classes and services offered to students. It is ironic that the majority of men and women who fought the Chips Fire were trained at community colleges which are now limiting enrollments into these very programs.

We at Feather River College believe that educated individuals are necessary to generate a healthy economy for Plumas County, for California, and for the United States. An investment in higher education is an investment in California. We cannot continue to tell 12% of our state (with an additional 7% if Proposition 30 fails) that the door is now closed to their future. Our Golden State's economy is burning away as it is fueled by an unemployed and uneducated population. We must provide avenues for training, education, workforce development, and careers for all of California, not just 81% of those

who try to enroll in college. Like the recent Chips Fire in Plumas County, we collectively must invest adequate resources to solve this problem facing California. To further reduce California Community Colleges, including Feather River College, will send a signal that California does not place a priority on higher education, job skills training, or an educated workforce. We echo the recent quote from California Community College Chancellor Jack Scott, “We’re heading in the wrong direction.”

6. FUTURE BOARD MEETING PRESENTATIONS

One of the recent accreditation recommendations centered on a training program for the Board of Trustees and all governance groups. FRC has made positive advances in this area through many different avenues. Updates on the progress for the eight ACCJC recommendations will be part of each board meeting in the upcoming months. In addition, part of the October BOT meeting will involve a specialized presentation about best practices and training examples from other California community colleges. The November meeting agenda includes the Board’s role in emergency and disaster preparedness. The entire campus community is invited to participate in these important training opportunities.