

**Subject: From the President's Desk**

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**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good afternoon and Happy Friday!

## **Strategic Planning & Budgeting**

Yesterday Kathy Hart and I presented to the Planning and budget Committee the Cabinet's recommendations for projects that should have a priority for funding through our college budget process. It is a requirement of the accreditation process that we link our planning processes with our budget development processes. Although the process that we piloted this year worked, we all know that it could work better and we hope to keep refining the process as we receive suggestions and determine glitches in the process.

The Cabinet's list of projects will be placed on the college website so that anyone who is interested can view the list. There were a total of 348 proposals submitted with a price tag that came in somewhere in between \$27 to \$28 million. Obviously, we don't have the resources to fund anything even close to that amount of projects. However, when you read through the whole gamut of projects, the list really isn't that overwhelming. That is, we did not include any projects for consideration that were just asking for new entitlements. We have separate processes to determine faculty and classified entitlements and those processes are outside this particular phase of the budget development process. Taking those requests out of the mix reduces the overall amount by a considerable margin. There were also a number of suggested projects that are being done or that are already in the planning stages, so those projects were eliminated from consideration. In addition, there were a great number of projects that required no new funding or just a minimal amount of funding. There was no need to include these projects in the final priorities as we can proceed to implement them as there really is no impact to the budget.

In determining the final list, we looked at the original criteria that we asked people to follow in submitting their proposals. We looked at additional criteria such as creativity and feasibility of implementation. We also saw a number of projects that were similar in nature and that we thought could be combined into one project. We tried to be as objective as we could in selecting our finalist, but as with any selection process there is always an element of subjectivity. We asked each Cabinet member to come up with their top list of projects. We then compared the lists and put them into a matrix. We were able to then pull out the projects that we all listed or that were listed by several raters. I believe the projects that we chose are all related to our strategic planning goals and are projects that will make both short-term and long-term improvements to the college.

The Cabinet's list is not that long. Altogether it includes about 21 projects and some of these were marked as being projects that should be combined. Don't panic if your project didn't make the list. I have asked each of the Vice Presidents to take the projects that were submitted from their areas. They will evaluate those projects and then try to determine if there are sufficient funds within each of their areas to accommodate the request. If not, I have asked them to bring those projects forward and we will add those to the list compiled by the Cabinet.

Again, this is not a perfect process and it probably never will be. However, it is an exciting beginning and it shows that there is tremendous creativity and innovation at all level of our college. I wholeheartedly thank everyone who submitted a proposal and encourage them to keep pushing for new ideas.

### **ESL Mural Dedication**

Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the dedication of the new murals that are located on the second floor of Cunningham at the entrance to the ESL lab. Mario Moreno and Mark Slakey approached me over a year ago with the idea of putting a mural outside of the entrance to the ESL lab to liven up the dark and drab hallway. I thought it was a great idea and gave them the green light to move ahead. Mario's Art students put the finishing touches on the murals this semester. I say murals in that it was originally supposed to be one mural, but someone decided that the wall opposite the large mural looked bare and that it would look better if a small mural covered that space. I saw them after they were done in the studio and I thought they looked great. After seeing them yesterday in their new home, they look even better than I had imagined. Both of the murals are attached to the wall so that they can be moved, which is a good thing given the fact that Cunningham is now slated for demolition in the future!

### **Delta Family Reunion**

This morning we hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Delta Family Reunion for Delta College retirees. A large and chipper group turned out for the event. It is always wonderful to see our former employees and to have a little time to chat with them about their current activities. Andy Dunn provided a short presentation on the bond projects that was well received. Thanks to Valerie Stewart-Green and Karen Mokma for organizing the event, to Jim Vergara for taking photos, and to Frank Harrison for providing the delicious brunch.

### **Kudos**

- Kudos to Kathy Hart for being selected as the May 2005 recipient of the Academic Senate Non-Teaching Staff Award. There may have been others, but she is the first manager to receive this award that I can recollect in my three years here at Delta. I doubt there is a manager more deserving than Kathy and I applaud her selection for this award. She is a tireless worker who has shown time and again that she gets things done! For me, that is one of the highest praises as I value people who follow through and achieve results.
- Kudos to Trustee Maria Elena Serna on her election to the Board of Directors of the California Community College Trustees organization. Her election ensures that we will have representation on that board from the Central Valley colleges. Thanks are also due to Trustee Anthony Bugarin for just completing two terms of service on that same board and for his strong representation of the Central Valley and our students.
- Congratulations to Pierre Tapia for his election as ASBG President. I have not heard the full election results, but Pierre burst into my office this morning to share his elation at being elected. I am pleased for Pierre

and at the same time sorry for Carmen Avitia as she was also an able and dedicated ASBG President.