

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

I did not mention the Governor's proposed budget, which was released about two weeks ago, in my last memo. The main reason I didn't mention it is that I didn't have room. A subject like that can take up a lot of space, which is necessarily limited in a communication like this. However, I am going to try to be brief and cover some of the highlights (and lowlights) of the proposed budget.

Governor's Proposed 2005-06 Budget

There are a number of bright spots in the Governor's proposed budget, not the least of which is the overall increase of 7% to community colleges. Another of these is that the community college share of Prop. 98 will improve from 10.25% to 10.35%. It may seem like a small increment, but such an increase means millions more dollars for the community colleges. Also on the positive side, the Governor is proposing 3% for growth (\$136.7 million) and a 3.93% COLA (\$195.5 million). Thankfully, he is not proposing any new fee increases for students.

In spite of the good news, there are a number of issues raised in the Governor's budget proposal that are cause for concern. He would like to shift some of the STRS costs that the state now bears back to the local community college districts. This would result in new costs of approximately \$40 million to the community colleges, which equates to a cut of about \$34 per student. The Governor did not include any funding for equalization. Equalization funding is intended to address the funding inequities between community colleges and as Delta is a low revenue district we desperately need the equalization funding. Many districts were hoping for an increase in the non-credit rate and the Governor chose not to include such an increase in his budget proposal.

The Governor has a larger plan to get the state out of the recurring budget crisis. Whether it is a good plan or not remains a matter of debate. I am concerned about the practice of the Governor and the state giving us money with one hand and then taking it away with the other. One of the ways that they have done so in recent years is by implementing a deficit factor into our budget. That is, after increasing our budget with COLA or through other additions, they then take a certain percentage out and then call it a deficit factor. It is just a gimmick that they use to take away some of the money we are supposed to receive before we actually receive it!

The state revenues for next year are projected at \$83 billion, which is \$5 billion more than last year. Unfortunately, projected expenditures are \$10 billion more than last year. I do agree with the Governor when he recently commented on our state budget, "We do not have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem." I believe that the same sentiment can be applied to Delta. Our revenues continue to rise, just not as steeply as our expenditures and it is becoming increasingly difficult to pull those expenditures down so that they match our revenue. Nonetheless, that is the task we face if we are going to maintain our reserves and

avoid deficit spending.

I knew it would take up a lot of room to discuss the budget. The next topic is not all that pleasant either.

Smoking

The other day, I was told by a CTA official that a faculty member wanted to file a grievance against the college over a smoking issue. Specifically, this instructor has been frustrated over the continued practice of people smoking on the back side of Shima where the air vents for the building pick up the smoke and then circulate it throughout the building. Every semester John Williams and Marc Bromme and others go out to that area and remind people that it is a no smoking zone. They pass out little cards with our policy on it which indicates that the only authorized location on campus where smoking is allowed is the parking lots. It usually works for a day or at least for a few hours, but before long the smokers are back in the same place and once again smoke is being sucked into the air vents in Shima.

We all have to realize that this is a major health issue and that it must be taken seriously. However, at this point, I am not going to do anything other than to appeal to everyone who smokes outside of Shima to stop. I have been told that it is not just students, that faculty and staff smoke out there as well. I have also heard that there are other “hot” spots such as outside of the auto shop area in Holt. There are probably others. I would hope that everyone, smokers and non-smokers alike, would help to enforce our campus smoking policy. The campus police or administrators can’t always be there to tell people not to do it. If this disregard for our current smoking policy persists, then the only viable solution will be to take the next step, which is to completely ban smoking on campus.

Kudos

The other day I was copied on an e-mail from Bill Davis to Lee Belarmino about Steve Ogata. Bill praised Steve for his efforts to install the new computers and scanner in the Journalism Department area. According to Bill, Steve went far beyond just installing the equipment. He assisted with the floor design, did a quick demonstration of the equipment for Bill and his students, and checked back a week later to make sure that it was all working as it should. Bill’s closing remark was, “Try getting that level of service from an off-campus vendor.” I couldn’t agree more with Bill’s assessment. Hats off to Steve Ogata for a job well done!

As most everyone knows, last semester we faced some challenges early on in keeping the campus clean both inside and out. While the situation may not be completely reversed, we have made significant progress. I was forwarded a copy of an e-mail from Jane Dominik to Stan Stinnett about the custodian in her area, whose name is Jose Luis Hurtado. Jane said, “Everything was so much cleaner than it had been in a long time—wooden garbage containers, outside floors, stairwells (floors and walls), and restrooms. I also noticed the classrooms in which I teach were nicer. . . students in the back of 311 could see the board for the first time. . .it wasn’t the

glare. . .it was clean!” *Le felicito a Jose Luis mucho por su trabajo superior* (i.e., Congratulations to Jose Luis on his great work). I also saw another e-mail in which Felix Hall and Andrew Jones were lauded for the great job they had done in polishing the floor in Shima. I also want to congratulate and thank Felix and Andrew and all of the custodians for their extra efforts in keeping the campus clean. Additionally, it must be mentioned that Stan Stinnett has demonstrated exceptional leadership in turning around a custodial situation last fall that was rapidly deteriorating.

I’ve never seen such a rash of grandbabies being born all at once. However, I am gratified to note that two of the three that were born recently arrived on my birthday. Let’s hope that all three of them have great success in life!

This Saturday I will be attending a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Legislation of the CCLC up in Sacramento and then going to the annual LULAC crab feed at the Stockton Civic later that night. Whatever you do this weekend, I hope it is a good one!