Good morning everyone! There are a number of short topics for consideration this week. So, I’ll jump right in!

**Student Identification Numbers**

You may have heard about the federal regulations that are changing in regards to using social security numbers as identification numbers. It is largely a reaction to the growing number of cases of identity theft that occur through access to a person’s social security number. Here at Delta, Information Services is working with Student Services on a project to switch to randomly generated ID numbers for both students and employees. The project is complicated because of the number of systems that are based on social security numbers as the individual identifier. In spite of its difficulty, the project is scheduled to be completed this summer.

**Technology Replacement**

The college has purchased a large number of new Dell computers that the Information Services department will be installing in three Business Division computer labs. As part of the installation of these new computers, the computers currently in those labs, which are still good machines, will be moved into other instructional areas.

On a similar note, we approved and are implementing a plan to replace faculty computers. The plan is called the Faculty Computer Replenishment plan or DeltaNet II plan (I’m not quite sure why it has two names). It is an annual plan that calls for the replacement of computers and I am happy to announce that we will be able to fully fund this plan next year. One of the specifics of the plan is that this plan will have priority on new Instructional Capital Outlay funding each year. The goal is to replace the computers of at least 20% of the faculty every year. Obviously, the idea is that no faculty member will ever have a computer older than five years and that the majority of the faculty will never have a computer older than three years. I am grateful to Lee Belarmino and all of the other people who participated in developing this plan.

**Contract News**

A week ago, the CSEA membership ratified the new contract proposal by a vote of 139 to 15. The contract will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for their approval at the meeting on February 15th. If it is approved by the board at that meeting, the initial salary and compensation elements of the contract would be reflected in the payroll of February 28th. I appreciate the overwhelmingly positive vote of the CSEA membership. In the end, I believe that we did negotiate and put together a fair and generous contract for all classified employees.

**Public Information Request**

It appears that the Stockton Record is on a campaign to gather a large amount of public information from local
agencies. We have received several different requests from the Record for the salary history of all faculty and administrators, the vacation accrual of employees including the vacation payouts, and any lawsuits that were settled along with the terms of those settlements. The Record is targeting us, but I have heard that other public agencies (e.g., the county, the Stockton Fire Department, etc.) have received requests similar to those made of us. If you read the Record, you should be aware that several recent articles have highlighted such information in a somewhat negative light. The Record has a legal right to ask for such information and we have a legal obligation to supply it to them with certain restrictions. We will always protect the privacy and confidentiality of all employees. However, the information requested by the Record does not fall into that category. That is, the Record has a right to know someone’s salary and their teaching load, including overloads, bonus units, etc. On the other hand, they do not have a right to know if someone is making child care payments or has a garnish on their wages. That type of information is confidential and we would never provide that to the Record or any other news agency. We have no choice but to give the Record much of the information that they requested. How they will use it remains to be seen.

**Briefs**

The next meeting of the Employee Benefits Planning Committee is scheduled for February 10th in the Board Room at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is open to all interested parties, and will include an update on our solicitations for Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) of employee benefits vendors.

The 2005-06 schedules for all counselors were mailed out on January 31st to the counselor’s home addresses. If you are a counselor and did not receive your schedule in the mail, please contact the Office of Human resources immediately to receive a copy of your schedule.

All employees should have received their 2004 W-2 earnings statement from the district. If you have not received your W-2 yet, please contact Norma in payroll at extension 5056.

**Kudos**

Congratulations to Linda Tregle on being selected as a 2005 Susan B. Anthony Woman of Achievement award recipient. This honor is being bestowed on Linda by the San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women. Linda is receiving this award for her many years of teaching dance here at Delta and in the community and for the many special dance performances that she has organized and presented over the years. The award will be presented at a banquet on February 15th at the Elkhorn Country Club.

I also want to commend Anthony Canela and Richard Rios, our Puente counselor and Puente English instructor, respectively, on the Health Care Career Day that they held at the Kaiser facility last Saturday. Over 90 Puente students and their mentors and family members attended this event. A variety of Kaiser employees presented career information to the Puente students. Thanks are also due to Dr. Dominguez of Kaiser for arranging the participation of Kaiser staff.
On next Tuesday and Wednesday I will be making two different presentations at a conference in San Francisco. Have a great weekend!