

This Week at the District

Chancellors' Regionalism Meeting

I am continuing to meet with the Chancellors of the three other Orange County community college districts to discuss items that may benefit our students and schools at a regional level. This week, we met at South Orange County Community College District and were able to view their proprietary SHERPA software. SHERPA is similar to Degreeworks in that it provides degree plans based upon established pathways and other criteria. The software was impressive and the strength of the SHERPA program was in its analytics and ability to extract data that is useful to colleges and students. We will continue to meet and look at ways to regionalize.

Retiree Health Benefits

Vice Chancellor Dunn has received an update to our actuarial study examining the Retiree Health Benefits Liability. As expected, without meaningful structural change in our benefits' program this past year, the District's accrued liability is currently estimated to be \$99-million. As you may recall, in 2010 the actuarial study estimated our liability at \$91-million. Not unexpectedly, the estimates for 2014 are anticipated to run about \$106-million. The Health Benefits Advisory Committee is working to gather recommendations to present to the Board regarding areas of savings.

Enterprise Corporation

Please join me in congratulating **David Cline** in being reelected as the Chair of the Enterprise Corporation. I would also like to acknowledge **Julie Frazier-Matthews** on being named the Secretary of that Board. The Enterprise Corporation will continue to be a great support to our colleges and their programs with this returning and new leadership.

Welcome Back!

As I reported in previous News Briefs on the All College Meeting at Coastline, I would like to thank Golden West College and Orange Coast College for having me at their "welcome back" events on campus. It is this time of year that I am grateful to have the students and faculty back on campus. All three of our campuses are filled with energy and excitement as we begin this new school year. I know you join me in extending the entire Coast Family, best wishes for a fabulous semester. As always, I am thankful for what you have done, what you are doing and what you will do in the future for our students.

Sincerely,



Board Meeting Reminders

September 19 - Regular Meeting

October 3 - Regular Meeting

October 17 - Study Session

Chancellor's Calendar

Week of September 17, 2012

Monday - Thursday
In the Office

Friday
NCCHC Leadership
Symposium, Long Beach



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Students subject to new “3 strikes” rule when attempting
community college courses***

Students at all 112 California Community Colleges are subject to updated rules if they wish to withdraw from or repeat a course.

The new “3 strikes rule”—which went into effect summer 2012—dictates that community college students now have just three chances to pass a course within the same community college district. The Coast Community College District is comprised of three colleges: Coastline, Orange Coast College, and Golden West College.

Students who attempt a course and earn a D, F, or NP grade, or if they receive a W (from withdrawing from the course) will only be able to attempt that course two additional times within the district.

“Grades of D, F, and NP—as well as W marks—all count as one attempt,” said Jennifer McDonald, Director of Admissions at Coastline. “Most importantly, all attempts made before this rule went into effect in August 2012 still get counted towards this rule,” McDonald mentioned, calling attention to how the rule is retroactive.

As noted on the California Community Colleges Curriculum website, the specific rule is as follows:

Section 55042 of Title 5 allows a student to repeat a class two times to alleviate a substandard grade, including a “D,” “F,” “FW,” “NP” or “NC,” or if the student withdraw and receives a “W” grade.

Note: The inclusion of the W grade in allowable number of attempts is a recent change to Title 5.

To avoid getting marked with a W grade, students should pay close attention to the deadline dates for withdrawing from a class. With full semester, 16-week courses, students can withdraw from a course through the end of the second week without receiving a “W” notation (aka without penalty). However, if a student enrolls in a course and withdraws anytime after the third week, they will receive a “W” notation and it will count as an “attempt” in regards to the “3 strikes rule.”

“Budgets are tight and community college courses are extremely in demand,” notes Christine Leon, Dean of Counseling and Matriculation at Coastline. “Students need to plan ahead, take only the courses they need, and focus on passing those courses in the fewest number of attempts,” she said. Leon noted that these changes are the result of State regulations and apply to all 112 California Community Colleges.

For further information on the “3 strikes rule”, contact Coastline Community College’s Admissions Office at (714) 241-6176.