

Bob Brunton's Goals for 2006

I believe our board should be more proactive in promoting Ohlone College and the community college system.

I believe that our Board meetings can be better. They can be more substantive, more collegial, more open, and still be shorter in length.

I believe that our Board should be the example of professional conduct and cooperative spirit.

I promise to do my best to be an example to making this upcoming year productive and to establish procedures that will benefit the college for years to come.

I understand that in order for this year to be a success it will require cooperation and ownership of the goals by all of our members. Today I am providing my broad overview of the goals for the year. I want you and I encourage you to review them, debate them, add – subtract- or modify them. It is my hope that by the end of February that we have established clear goals and objective for the upcoming year.

My Broad areas of Goals are as follow

1. Providing greater linkage of our community college to our community
2. Promoting and supporting the needs of our college through the support of Fund raising and legislative measures
3. Board meeting reforms
4. Financial and Educational Goals
- 5 Establish Trustee of the Year Award

1. Ohlone is our College of the Community. The more our community hears about, thinks about Ohlone the better. Ohlone is a vital element of the quality of life in our region. We need to hear from the community and the community needs to hear from us. I propose that as a Board we make a commitment to participation. Our board should be represented by at least one of our board members at all major civic events. Our board should be accessible and proactive in promoting our many positive attributes and be forthright in relaying our limitations. We should share our needs and explain the benefits of meeting the college needs. Our board should be the example of professionalism, openness, and cooperation.

I propose the following ways to improve our linkage to the community.

- A. Prepare presentations that can be presented to civic groups and town hall meetings.
- B. Prepare a master calendar of events and try to have one board member present at each major event.

- C. Prepare Semi-annual Report to the community delivered by newspaper or mail
 - D. Web site – communication. Allow for ease of communication for the community and board to converse
 - E. Select other governmental groups that joint meetings would be helpful in improving the educational opportunities of our community
 - F. Greater community contact through the use of Ohlone Media outlets. I understand that KOHL radio and TV and the Monitor are part of the academic programs at the college and their use is protected by academic freedom. It is my hope that these media outlets also recognize the tremendous benefit they could provide to our community and the promotion and success of our college. As one example KOHL radio is the only local radio station and in case of an emergency it could be the only outlet for local information.
2. I believe the board should be more active in fund raising and supporting legislation that affects our college. I would like to see each member to commit to help in needs awareness raising and fund raising. We should review upcoming legislative issues and support or suggest modifications to our local officials.
3. Board meeting reforms. The board just conducted a self-evaluation survey and all parties expressed frustrations and concerns about the content and conduct at the meetings. I propose several changes.
- A. Adopt the Carver Method as a model for our meetings. Our Bi-Monthly meetings should have one primary business meeting and one primary meeting discussion of issues facing our college. Of course each meeting will have elements of each but through this discipline of meeting all members can have their opportunity to explore issues and provide input. I will propose an annual calendar of issue discussion so that the public and board can be assured that issues will be dealt with.
 - B. Our meetings and workshops should be televised live and methods should be arranged for input from our viewers who cannot attend our meetings.
 - C. Discussion reform and discipline. Whereas I do not support the arbitrary length of a meeting. I will support and practice time limits in discussion with additional time granted by the board. I will also advocate the use of voting methods that while remaining open will also prevent the appearance of being non-independent.
4. Educational and Financial Goals – Our board is fortunate that we have an extended board that is willing and able to discuss issues and propose solutions and improvements to our college. The board would be wise to work with the extended board. I propose an agenda

item to discuss the best practices concerning shared governance and the expected positive outcomes by having a good working relationship. In keeping in the spirit of cooperation and involvement I also propose that the board have an earlier involvement in the setting of budget and educational goals. The board enjoys and learns much from the presentations of the various groups I Hope that the presentations continue. I would propose that the presentations follow an outline that addresses many of the expected board questions during the presentation so that any following discussion is substantive and predictable. In financial manner concerning our college it is vital that educational goals are also in agreement with our financial goals. I believe that the college should make a firm commitment to our facilities and student safety and creating conducive learning environments. We must have the courage to face and ask tough questions on what we can we afford to do. Should we be all things mediocre or fewer things excellent? My hope is that we can have spirited and factual debate and reduce the amount of emotion and hysteria.

5. Trustee of the Year Award – I propose that an Annual Award that is voted upon by both the board and extended board to the Trustee that best exemplifies being a great trustee and advocate for the college.

To my fellow trustees, the students of Ohlone, our taxpayers and citizens and of course our most valuable assets the employees of Ohlone. Our mission has unlimited needs and we have limited resources. It is imperative that we demonstrate our ingenuity to maximize what we have, the courage to promote cooperation and the desire to build the best college possible.

Bob Brunton