



College Council discusses shorter semesters

By **OMER AHMED**
Staff writer

After calling roll and approving the minutes from a previous session, the Ohlone College Council started its last meeting of the month this past Friday.

The Ohlone College Council's purpose is to ensure that the whole body of the college has a part in recommending and developing the policies that go to Ohlone's president and the board of trustees. To ensure that the interests of the entire school are represented, the council membership is composed of 15 voting members and 3 ex-officio (non-voting) members from the administration, the ASOC, fac-

ulty and staff. The council is co-chaired by Ohlone's president, Dr. Douglas Treadway, and music professor Dennis Keller.

The main topic of the Sept. 23 meeting was the proposed compressed calendar being voted upon by the Faculty Senate. Since Thursday, Sept. 22, full-time faculty and part-timers who teach more than eight units have been voting on how long next year's school semester will be. Currently, the semester is 18 weeks long; the Faculty Senate is choosing between the proposed 16- or 15-week plans. This includes one week of finals. Some of the reasons mentioned for moving to a shorter calendar included an expected increase in en-

rollment and matching schedules with most of the major UCs in the area. The move would also bring Ohlone in line with other community colleges, of which at least one third are on a 16-week calendar. The United Faculty of Ohlone College and Faculty Senate had previously endorsed the 16 week long semester and the Council considered taking a stance on the issue, but no movement was passed.

Vice President of Business Services Deanna Walston also gave an update on the plans for developing the college's land along Mission Boulevard. The area, which is considered surplus real estate, is going to be a mixed-use project, possibly including commercial and residen-

tial properties. So far, Ohlone has submitted the necessary drafts for the area's evaluation forms and has started receiving proposals from companies on how to develop the land. Currently, these proposals are being looked over by Ohlone's consultants, district staff and a selection committee. By Sept 27, the proposal review should be done and completed evaluation forms should be submitted to the district.

The Ohlone College Foundation also gave an informational briefing on its recent events and future plans. The foundation helps Ohlone raise money by organizing events and arranging private donations. Its executive director, Josephine Ong-Hawkins, explained the successes

of the recent Smith Center Gala and the 21st Annual Golf Tournament. The next big event is the Oct. 21 18th Annual Citizen of the Year Luncheon honoring active foundation member Rick Geha. Additionally, Ong-Hawkins commented that the foundation is planning to give scholarships to Ohlone students through a committee in the process of forming.

Also discussed at the College Council meeting were plans for a study of Ohlone's future development and reviews of Treadway's strategic plan and recent board of trustees policy. The council meets every second and fourth Friday in Room 1307. All meetings are open to the public and start at 10 a.m.

How to write U.C. admission statement

By **ERICK SANCHEZ**
Staff writer

At the U.C. Berkeley personal statement workshop last Monday, Angela Skrivanich, a transfer specialist, spoke to Ohlone students. She stressed the importance of writing the prompt/answer portion of the application clearly and concisely. She spoke about several areas colleagues in her profession look at when they read personal statements.

Transfer specialists first want to be able to make a connection with the student other than judging merely by GPA; therefore, it is imperative that personal statements stay personal. When writing in such a manner, one must focus the text on one's desires, goals, accomplishments, passions, and humanity. Writing about others' wishes, opinions and whatnot will not endear one to the transfer specialists; it'll only demonstrate that either one doesn't think much about oneself or that one doesn't know how to follow directions. In any case, that's not entirely a good impression.

The next area to keep in mind is some limitations in the scope of one's personal statement. Please limit using funny stories that are

irrelevant, forcing humor, using slang and/or inappropriate language. Also, remember to keep any goals that one wishes to share logical and reasonable. In Ms. Skrivanich's words, "Stay clear from goals that are high in the sky and stick with the goals that are concrete."

It's not advisable for applications to write about ending world misery, being God, avoiding death or any goals totally beyond one's control. Being direct and concise with one's goals and experiences will not only impress the transfer specialist, it will also keep one's personal statement strong and economical from the beginning to the end.

One should keep in mind the need to show transfer specialists that one can succeed via one's uniqueness, abilities and desire.

Lastly, transfer specialists are looking for students who have a desire to be critical thinkers - dedicated and passionate. Students can set up appointments with Ms. Skrivanich at the Transfer & Career Center in Building 1, fourth floor, Room 1405A. Angela Skrivanich, U.C. Berkeley transfer specialist, can be reached at (510) 642-1364 or ang@berkeley.edu

Depression screening

Continued from Page 1

after they get home, by the time they hit college they can add: will I be able to keep my (part-time) job? Will I be able to afford gas to drive to campus? Am I getting good grades? Am I liked and respected by my peers? The list goes on and on.

The constant stream of marketing messages that is aimed at teens and young adults exacerbates the sense of insecurity - after all, content, self-assured people make for bad consumers. It's important to keep those people feeling like they are lacking in the weight/looks/coolness department. In other words, a LOT of pressure is created over completely trivial matters. Add to that possible factors like parents divorcing, drug use, the world being in a constant state of turmoil, the weak economy, (Will a degree procure a job?) girlfriend/boyfriend issues, (including that looming unwanted pregnancy or STD factor) or simply a sense of not belonging.

If any of this rings a bell, students may want to drop by the Student Health Center, Building 16 Oct. 6 (between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) to participate in a free, confidential, educational screening for a range of common emotional conditions that are often misunderstood and or overlooked, or go to www.depression-screening.org for an online screening. Students can then bring the results to the Health Center for scoring by a counselor who will provide information and support, and in some cases Rosemary O'Neill (Mental Health Counselor of Personal Counseling Services) can arrange for on-campus counseling. For additional information, call (510) 659-6258 or TTY (510) 659-6219.

Contributing writer Jessica Losee.

3 Ohlone students die in wreck

Continued from Page 1

second vehicle has come forward and said that the girls were speeding behind him and after hearing the sound of the crash, he turned around to investigate the accident, then left the scene, this according to police. The name of that person has not been released nor is he considered any sort of suspect.

When Ohlone student and friend Sarah Mirza heard of the girls' death, she thought the reports were wrong. "I was shocked. I remember just talking to Saprina who was coming

from a counselor's appointment. Just a few days ago I saw Niki (Dhanwant) at Wendy's where she works. Their death still hasn't registered," said Mirza.

Other students were close friends with the girls and expressed shock. "We used to study chemistry and calculus together," said Heta Desai, ASOC treasurer. "I just spoke with them the day before they died." ASOC Legislative Representative Ekta Patel planned to take a course at Chabot along with the girls and would have been a part of their carpool. "I

wanted to take chemistry there, but I decided to take it here instead. I would have been there with them in that carpool had I taken that class, but I ended up taking chemistry here."

The ASOC is planning to hold a memorial and are awaiting approval from the girls' families to proceed. Plans are to have a large poster of the each victim near the cafeteria pond or by the Palm Bosque where sympathetic students and faculty can sign. The final place and time of the memorial will be decided by a committee formed to handle the occasion.

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