

# ASOC developing a new statewide student senate

By OMER AHMED  
Staff writer

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) and student bodies from other colleges are working collectively to create a new statewide Student Senate.

The need for better representation of student concerns in the state legislature necessitated the creation of the Student Senate.

The California Student Association of Community College's (CalSACC) was the main organization responsible for getting stu-

dent issues to the government and, until last May, held the official status of State Student Senate. It's inability to affect state education policy on such issues as tuition costs and program cuts led to widespread dissatisfaction.

CalSACC president Jason Teramoto has also been criticized as being out of touch with many schools and not properly representing the collective voice of community college students.

A number of representatives, including those from his own school, have indicated that they

want Teramoto removed from the presidency.

Responding to these issues, California Community College Chancellor Mark Drummond revoked CalSACC's position as the official community college state senate, which it held for 12 years, and called together representatives from the ten CalSACC Regions at the Student Body Government Presidential Summit to jumpstart the creation of the new student senate.

In a letter sent to various student body presidents, Drummond asked for the senate to be "designed by

students, for students, and be representative of all students of the California Community Colleges."

Raz Mohammed, ASOC president, attended the Summit and worked on creating a draft constitution. During a Presidential Report to the ASOC senators Mohammed described the event as "incredibly important" because the new Student Senate will effect how colleges and students are represented for years to come.

Since the Summit, Mohammed has been working on the Student Senate's constitution with repre-

sentatives from other CalSACC IV schools including Chabot, DeAnza and Foothill. If ratified by the other CalSACC regions, the new constitution will serve as the basic structure for the new senate.

The fate of the California Student Association of Community College itself is not clear. Currently, CalSACC and the Student Senate are being treated as two totally separate entities, not having anything to do with each other despite the senate's origins. However, once the senate is fully organized and operational, CalSACC may become obsolete.

# Master Yuen writes about Buffy and discusses Descartes

By OMER AHMED  
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If you've seen a man with a long ponytail with students discussing the ideas of René Descartes in relation to the nature of reality in The Matrix movie trilogy, then you have most likely encountered Ohlone's new full-time philosophy instructor Wayne Yuen.

Called Master Yuen by some of his students, this is not his first time teaching at Ohlone. He taught as a part-time instructor at many colleges but applied to Ohlone when its sole full-time position opened up.

Jobs for philosophy instructors are hard to come by and Yuen was not sure he would get the position due to the nature of Ohlone's philosophy department, which includes comparative religions, Islamic studies and theology courses. "Ohlone chose me more than I chose



Photo by Ross Tsvetanov

## Master Yuen explains centrifugal force.

Ohlone," explained Yuen in regards to his surprise at being hired.

Looking back at his first semester teaching full-time, Yuen observed that he enjoyed it. He said, "I really like it. I'm in one place, I get to meet people and it's nice, in

a way, to have a home."

As the only full-timer among Ohlone's five philosophy instructors, Yuen has his hands full. On top of his Monday through Friday teaching schedule, he is the de facto head of the philosophy department

and completes the program and course reviews.

Currently, he is working on getting an Introduction to Philosophy class into shape for Fall 2006 to help students who are somewhat overwhelmed from jumping straight into Ethics or Modern Philosophy classes without basic reasoning skills. This is in addition to work he is doing for a future publication.

In regards to teaching, Yuen is unique. He said, "I don't like the dry academic side of academia," and it shows in his style. For his planned Intro to Philosophy course, he is thinking of using clips from various movies to illustrate concepts and points to his students.

Further proving that philosophy and pop culture go hand in hand, Yuen co-wrote a piece titled "Morality on Television: The Case of Buffy the Vampire Slayer" which appeared in the Buffy the Vampire

Slayer and Philosophy essay anthology.

While all the media involved might make a student think his course is easy, Yuen warns, "When you take my class, expect it to be hard."

As a philosophy teacher, Yuen expects students to do something that many people skip out on in modern times: think. Elaborating on his goals in forcing people to think, Yuen said, "I want people to walk away with a more questionable attitude and a more reasonable outlook."

Yuen was born in New Jersey, raised in San Jose and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Philosophy at San Jose State University, hence the nickname Master Yuen.

He specializes in ethics and if you are wondering about the long hair, Yuen said simply, "I just don't like getting my hair cut."

# Treadway talks about the past, dreams about the future

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with a new baseball field forming the hillside to the south of campus and a parking garage coming in behind the Smith Center. The plan is to keep sports fields between the commercial aspect and Ohlone. This new layout, coupled with the new front end is, according to Treadway, in no way going to alter the identity of Ohlone College.

"All of the contractors we've spoken with plan to build some kind of arch and gate to preserve Ohlone's identity here," said

with a lack of plywood, the project is looking more costly.

"But the Newark Campus is going to save us money, in the long run," said Treadway, "It will run on geothermal power, and that will keep energy costs at a bare minimum."

Even so, funding problems stand in the way, though a new bill is going to the state legislature to change the structure of funding for community colleges in California, which should alleviate some of the spending needs.

# Got a kid? Donate it.

The holiday season isn't all Starbucks eggnog for everyone.

The Associated Students of Ohlone College are collecting toys for underprivileged children.

Bring an unwrapped new toy to the lobby of Building 1 today through Friday, Dec. 16.

For more information, contact ASOC Adviser Rene Gonzales at (510) 659-7311.

# Classrooms to be relocated

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Current classroom space will also be utilized more efficiently. Room 4104A is a good example - some faculty believe it should be shifted around regardless of possible lost space. Cooking stations will be removed and, with the expanded space, 14 seats will be gained in the room.

Other rooms will be turned into general education classrooms by adding projectors, white boards and computerized podiums.

The room shortages will likely last until either the Newark Center for Health Sciences and Technology or the Student Services Building are completed. Vice President

of Instruction Jim Wright confirmed, "We will be pressed for space until these are opened up."

The dates when construction will be finished for the two sites are tentative and delays are expected.

Speaking at Wednesday's Faculty Senate meeting, Wright poked fun at this when he sighed, "I hope that two years from today that we will be celebrating that the Newark Campus building will be opening next month."

The changes being put forth to combat the room shortage will start over winter break and the last of them should be concluded by the Fall 2006 semester.



Treadway. "Plus, the new buildings out front will be in Mission-style architecture - tile roofs and such, to blend in."

The Newark campus also looks to be coming along smartly. However, due to Hurricane Katrina and the elevated price of oil, coupled

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