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Above: Members of the Associated Students of Ohlone College and other students take part in the groundbreaking of the Student Services Center. In the center of the group, Student Board of Trustee member Sahar Yousef wields a ceremonial gold shovel.

Below: The current profile mockup of what the new building will look like when finished.

Photo by Jack Husting, mockup provided by College Relations



Student services center ground broken by students

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM
Staff writer

Ohlone will soon be preparing for the construction of a new Student Services Support Building that will serve students by consolidating all student-related services into one building. As President Doug Treadway put it, the new Student Services Center will be “a first-stop for students for all their needs on campus.” The groundbreaking for the building’s construction took place on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

The project itself will take a year or more to complete and the building will most likely be open either in the fall of 2008 or spring of 2009. Buildings 7, 25, and 26

will be completely torn down after graduation to make room for the ambitious project. Parking lots O and P will also be closed to make room, hinting at the size and magnitude of the new building. To compensate for the lack of parking, there are plans under way to build new parking lots closer to campus to replace lots O and P. According to Patrice Birkedahl, director of college relations, S.J. Amoroso, the same company that handled the construction of Hyman Hall, will construct the new building. Construction will take place over the course of a year or so and heavy machinery will be brought in to work on the site.

The sheer size and planning

behind the Student Services Support Building imply that it will come with a hefty price tag. The entire project will cost \$32.8 million and, while that is a fairly large amount of money, Ohlone will pay it through the Measure A bond, which was passed four years ago by the citizens of the Ohlone Community College District that includes Fremont, Newark and a fraction of Union City.

Measure A raised about \$150 million but much of that is going toward the construction of Ohlone’s Newark Center for Health Sciences and Technology campus while some of it will go toward renovations and readjustments to the main Fremont

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Trustees hear complaints about athletic fields

By BRIAN CHU
Staff writer

The men’s baseball and women’s softball teams voiced their discontent about the condition of the athletic fields to the Board of Trustees at Wednesday’s 3 p.m. meeting.

A week after Ohlone Athletic Director Paul Moore expressed his frustration over the conditions of the sports fields, the men’s baseball team captain reiterated the concerns and stated that although plans have been tossed around for a Newark baseball field, there had not been any improvements to the one at

Fremont Campus since 1991. He also said that the lack of drainage and other terrain hazards were causing the players to suffer.

The board posed several questions to team members about how Ohlone athletic programs would be affected if the entire field was removed and team activities moved to Newark for practices and games.

The overwhelming majority of players stated that they preferred that the athletic fields on the Fremont campus be renovated and upgraded instead. Trustee Garrett Yee said that that option was also more convenient for the school

budget, as upgrades can be made over time.

On a related note, Moore recently announced his retirement. Ethnic Studies Professor Mark Salinas has also just resigned.

Isabell Ronnels, captain of the women’s softball team, stated, “Since 1988, there have been 22 upgrades to the softball field and only five were funded by the college. The other 17 were done through fundraisers and donations. The only reason we have fences, a tractor, an electronic scoreboard and a sound system is from sources other than the school.”

She also stated that the fields needed leveling and resodding and that the space the team currently used was dangerous to play on. She requested that the board replace the screens and pits, add security lights, an extra bleacher and repair the dugouts. After this, the women’s softball team gave a standing ovation and left shortly thereafter.

Yee stated that he had gone to Chabot College, examined their fields and agreed that the fields at the Fremont Ohlone campus were inadequate compared to those of other community colleges.

The other focus of the board

meeting was how to deal with the frontage property development to maximize the benefit to the college. Members of the board presented various ideas and the board decided to hold a workshop to better inform its members of the possibilities and options, with only one dissenting vote by Trustee Bob Brunton.

Yee said that he would like to remind the rest of the board that the frontage property lease or any income generated by the frontage property should not be expected to solve all the budget inconsistencies and that the “master plan may need revising.”