

College to be plagued by power outages

By WILLIAM O. MARTIN
Staff writer

Ohlone's Fremont Campus has suffered at least two power outages this semester and may be facing more to come. For the past several years, during the summer peak electrical load times, the Fremont campus has lost power on numerous occasions due to primary fuses blowing on the PG&E equipment that supplies electricity to the campus.

With the addition of the new Student Services Building and the information technology system upgrades, the electrical requirements of the campus are steadily increasing and our old equipment that was at one time sufficient is now outdated and not powerful enough to supply the rapidly evolving campus.

Ohlone's immediate solution to the problem is to try and minimize power use during peak hours, which includes cutting the air condition-

ing.

Over the Christmas break, the Facilities Department plans to work with PG&E to upgrade the current equipment to 100 amp interrupters, which are similar to circuit breakers, in hopes of permanently eliminating the problem.

The estimated cost of the project is \$60,266, which PG&E requires to be paid in advance.

The rolling power outages is just a temporary Band-Aid until the electrical upgrades are made.

On Monday, Temporary Buildings and Grounds Assistant Frances Jensen released an announcement that said, "It will be necessary for the Fremont campus to curtail air conditioning electrical loads today to prevent potential loss of power to the College. Rotating outages will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 5 p.m. Please help us conserve energy by eliminating all unnecessary uses of electricity in your area."

Until December, these announcements may be more frequent.

Exploring exit strategies



Photo by Japneet Kaur

Fiona Tedds of the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM) talks to a student at Transfer Day on Wednesday. Tables were set up inside and in front of Building I.

Techcomm considers buying new computers

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Ohlone's Tech Committee (TechComm) is considering bringing in new computers for labs, replacing the old ones with more updated models, members announced at their meeting Tuesday.

First on the agenda were plans to purchase new computers for labs and for the rest of the campus's faculty and staff offices. The committee talked about the need to propose the proper amount of funding for these computers, and why there is a need for them.

Considering that many of the computers are around six years old, their very components worn to near nonfunction and their software out of date, it is understandable that there is a need to acquire new ones.

Committee Co-Chair Jeff O'Connell brought up that if the sum of \$80,000 to \$90,000 - a figure equitable to an Ohlone employee's

yearly salary - could be raised, instances like computer crashes and other such related problems that arise from lack of updated computers would not have to be dealt with. "It will be better for everyone, it would be so much more efficient," O'Connell said.

Chief Technology Officer Bruce Griffin added, "We should know what labs need, who uses them, and how many computers we should purchase, and if we are just replicating present labs," instead of tailoring new labs to their intended purpose. Vice President of Instruction Jim Wright mentioned that "it's about time we define 'labs,'" for the sake of proper allotment of funds to these facilities.

More than budgets and financial matters, the committee also talked about the need to know what model of computer and how many to purchase. A sub-committee that will research more about this was formed to ensure that they get the right number and type of

computers.

In addition to the committee's plans to bring in new computers in replacement of the old, they are also thinking of changing the school's e-mail server to Microsoft Exchange to allow staff and faculty to use a more robust program with a much better interface that will enable them to work from their homes and bring their work to the office. The Microsoft Outlook software to be used will be synced in with the client's (faculty's) desktop and will be more compatible with Macintosh computers.

If this pushes through, the clients will have the option of transferring data into their new e-mail account but it is not suggested, since the data might be dissolved by other programs that are spyware (malicious applications installed surreptitiously) in nature. This change will promote consistency within Ohlone's e-mail system.

The tech committee is also planning to improve Ohlone's web

server and setting up an intranet for Ohlone. They are thinking of transferring the website log to the Newark and making it more virtualized. They tagged this matter as "Mission Critical."

Another of the committee's concerns is the less-than-reliable faculty directory on campus. Directories are somehow inconsistent, and one reason is because some people limit the contents despite it being confidential.

The committee's answer to this is the implementation of a comprehensive directory. They formed another sub-committee that will try to figure out what the directory should include, what kind of database should be used that will be able to store information to make it all more organized and accurate.

Matters regarding a program called Software Inventory Automation were also discussed. The committee is planning to engage the campus computers in software that can detect and automatically

send information on what software is being used at the moment and how many are using them to one main computer. This system will track software usage and allow conversation within the campus's computer system, which will be better use of data.

Beneficial as this is, the committee was concerned about how faculty and staff might perceive this. Some might find it an invasion of privacy, but as one mentioned, this should not be so. The school's computers are owned and paid for by the school. In addition, the software will only track programs and not the data they contain.

Lastly the TechComm conferred about setting up intranet for the use of faculty and Staff. They are not clear on this as of now and have yet to determine who need it, who will manage it and who will feed it, but one thing they are clear about is how much it will improve networking and understanding among the Ohlone community.

Free speech shouldn't be confined

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Free Speech zone is located in an area considered to be most like a sidewalk, it also blocks the flow of pedestrian traffic since it lays situated right in front and on the side of a row of stairs. According to a court case in Texas of 2004, Roberts v. Haragan, the federal court concluded that "to the extent [that a] campus has park areas, sidewalks, streets, or other similar common areas, these areas are public forums, at least for the University's students, irrespective of whether the University has so designated them or not."

The college's policies restricting free speech can no longer stand the current zone for free speech. Our policy should support more speech instead of placing more

limits onto it. Our policy is hatching out fearful silent individuals into a society where free speech is highly valued, not censorship.

The Ohlone mission statement reads, "Student learning success is highly valued." Unfortunately, success cannot be created through censorship.

In our Core Values section, it states that Ohlone will promote openness to differing viewpoints and promote open communication. Due to the restrictions placed by the Time, Place and Manner Policy, it can be argued that Ohlone does not promote openness to differing viewpoints by also isolating the Free Speech Area after a minor event. Nor does Ohlone truly promote open communication due

to the many restrictions placed on students who wish to address themselves to issues of concern.

We cannot continue with our motto, "A world of cultures united in learning" when our college does not foster the free exchange of ideas. We will not learn lessons of democracy if we are not able to experience them firsthand and instead are thrown back to the books to silence our voices.

The Ohlone Administration and Board of Trustees MUST revise the current Time, Place and Manner Policy if it is to truly live up to the ideals expressed in the college's Mission, Vision and Core Values.

ZUHAL BAHADURI
ASOC Representative-at-Large

College to get look at Board candidates

The League of Women Voters and Ohlone College will sponsor a Candidate Forum for the Ohlone Board of Trustees Thursday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. at the Child Development Center on the Fremont campus.

Attorney David Sheen and Greg Bonaccorsi are running for the seat being vacated by Trisha Tahmasbi. Teresa Cox is challenging incumbent Trustee Bob Brunton, and Trustee Nick Nardolillo is running unopposed for reelection. Three of the board's seven members are up for election.

For information about registering to vote, see the Ohlone website at <http://www.ohlone.edu/core/voteregister.html>. The deadline for registration is 15 days before the election, which will be on Nov. 11.

Also on Sept. 25, candidates for the Alameda County Water District will appear at 8 p.m., also at the Child Development Center.