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Plaza Los Olivos opens its doors



Photo by Japneet Kaur

By JAPNEET KAUR
Photo editor

The Plaza Los Olivos complex, just north of campus on Mission Boulevard, opened for business Oct. 4, after about a year of construction. The two-story, 21,000 square-foot complex is Dutra Enterprises' "signature building." It will "...follow the highest architectural design standards that honor the neighborhood's uniqueness and historic setting," according to www.plazalosolivos.com. This venture cost Dutra Enterprises over \$7 million – a little over \$1 million for the land, and about \$6.5 million for construction.

The complex currently houses Prudential Financial, Inc., Chicago Title and a Dutra Enterprises office. Other companies are in talks to lease as well, but they were not disclosed.

John J. Dutra, CEO of Dutra Enterprises, said that the company's interests have always been and will be with the community. Dutra expressed the company's desire to be beneficial to the students of Ohlone College as well, by including some sort of smoothie or coffee establishment with wireless internet access, and providing the students with employment opportunities. "We totally support Ohlone College," Dutra said. "We all really, really love it with all our hearts."

With its 19-acre parcel of land, Ohlone college could be doing something similar. The topic of developing the frontage property has come up before the trustees several times, but has never reached a proper conclusion.

The new development features spaces for lease, inclusive architecture, and easy access.

Senate talks board election and special students

By REBECCA SOLTAU
Staff writer

The Faculty Senate held its monthly meeting Wednesday night and focused their agenda on special student enrollment and Ohlone College board candidate endorsements.

After taking care of the formalities of a senate meeting, Professor Alan Kirshner

proposed that immediately following the College Board Candidate Forum on Thursday afternoon, the Senate convene and decide which of the candidates they will endorse for the election. It was unanimously approved.

Immediately afterward, the senators discussed how they would be able to support the candidates. It was the general consensus that

the Senate would take out an advertisement in the local newspaper, the *Argus*, in order to showcase its support. It was unanimously decided that the faculty of Ohlone would raise the \$500 through donations.

The attention then turned to Ron Travenick, who proposed that Special Student enrollment be limited to only those students who had previously completed 9th grade of high

school. These special students would also be prohibited from enrolling in any Basic or pre-Basic Skills course offerings and this would be put into action in the summer of 2009.

This is meant to provide more resources for current post-high school students and prepare them for transferring to a four-year university. It was also approved, with only one abstention.

ASOC converses on future of Building One

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Tuesday, the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) debated plans for the future of Building One after many of its offices move to the Student Services Building (currently under construction) next year.

Ideas discussed included having a place for a student union, a lounge, new parking spaces and even bathroom renovation and improvement of sanitation. Student Success Representative Alex Hilke brought up the topic of acquiring bonds for this prospect project.

"The most recent bond, which was about two years ago, amounted to \$150 million," said Hilke. "That

amount was invested and \$10 million was gained out of that." He discussed where the money was allocated, which served as an example to the ASOC members.

Hilke also mentioned that he and his colleagues have come up with an idea to change the Free Speech Area from its current location in front of the Palm Bosque to the front of the new Student Services Building, because the current location is very secluded and can only fit a small number of people.

Hilke brought up an incident last week, in which the preacher handing out Bibles in front of the campus bookstore was escorted to the Free Speech Area. Included with the proposed change in the location of the free speech area would be

a revision of the time place and manner policy.

Changes in the Free Speech Area and its policies would require approval by the ASOC, ICC, Faculty Senate, College Council and College Board of Trustees.

There will also be a jazz-rock concert at the coffee cart featuring Tim Roberts and Jo Currell next Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. This will be a recurring event held every third Tuesday of the month, featuring various artists from around campus.

The ASOC also discussed the furnishing of Hyman Hall. They will be deciding the chairs' upholstery and the color of paint for the walls. They also discussed Student ID discounts that the ASOC will work

on getting for the rest of the student body for the upcoming semester.

In other news, Campus Activities and EOPS Director Debbie Trigg discussed a new program she is considering rolling out. It will be called the "Adopt a Student Leader Program," which will involve having one of the student leaders paired up with a staff or faculty mentor.

Campus Activities Director and ASOC Advisor Renee Gonzales announced that this will be her last meeting for several months, as she will be giving birth soon and will be beginning her maternity leave this Friday.

ASOC President Jackie McCulley reminded everyone to apply for scholarships that are now available. She encouraged everyone to ap-

ply, since the lowest scholarship is at \$500 which can pay for one semester of most students' tuition fees. This fall, 15 scholarships totaling over \$16,000 are being offered by the Ohlone Foundation. The scholarships range to \$1,000, and encompass subjects ranging from tennis to chemistry to music. The deadline for filing is Nov. 7.

McCulley said, "It won't hurt to apply. Sometimes you're not the best for that category but [if] no one else applies, then lucky you. You might just get the scholarship. Anyone can use a scholarship. Again, it does not hurt to try."

For more information on scholarships, visit www.ohlone.edu/org/scholarships.