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Bump in the night



Photo by Japneet Kaur

This spooky fellow has a role in 'Halloween Trilogy,' which consists of three stories designed to frighten and entertain. The show runs Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theater, with more performances on Halloween, Friday and Saturday at 8 and 11 p.m. Tickets are \$8-\$13 and are available at the Box Office. See story, Page 4.

Ohlone so far weathering credit crunch

By NICOLE JOHNSON
Staff writer

Ohlone College is safe so far from the declining economy, even though other colleges have lost money, according to Dean of Business Services Joanne Schultz.

"Ohlone is financially well positioned with adequate reserves," said Schultz.

Ohlone did have funds in rescued insurance giant AIG, but cashed out before the downturn, so the college didn't lose any money. The college monitors its investments and cash flow very closely. "Our current investments are primarily in bonds that have a steady income stream," said Schultz.

Recently, San Mateo County, which had invested as much as \$155 million in the global investment bank Lehman Bros., experienced a massive budget shortfall with the collapse of Lehman, who declared bankruptcy Sept. 15. Various institutions will be impacted by this void in the budget.

Currently, the state of California is experiencing a \$3 billion shortfall in predicted income, affecting previous budget plans. Schultz does not yet know how this will affect Ohlone. "The legislature will likely not meet again until January. At this time it is possible that there will be midyear budget cuts."

There are, however, no current plans to cut staff at Ohlone. Schultz

did say that there is a \$1.3 million salary savings built into the budget, which is being realized through a hiring freeze - no new employees will be hired at the school. Vacant faculty positions are remaining that way and no new classes were added

'Ohlone is financially well positioned with adequate reserves.'

—Joanne Schultz

for the Fall term. Schultz also said that "there are no plans from the state to raise enrollment fees, but it is still a likely outcome for next year."

As for college funding and the effect the recent financial crisis has had on it, Schultz said "our budgets are dependent primarily

on property tax and income tax revenues. Both of these are falling below the projections."

Property taxes are down due to the housing market collapse, resulting in reassessed housing values. Income tax revenues have two components, personal and business. On the personal side, the stock market losses will translate into capital losses and as unemployment rises, taxable income declines.

Business are unable to get credit as a result of the financial tightening so production is down, profits are down and more jobs are at risk. That all spirals down even farther as the consumers hold onto cash rather than spend it. All of that impacts the state's ability to fund the budget they passed.

Schultz added that even though Ohlone is safe for now, that could change overnight depending on how much the factors above impact state revenue stream.

Board considers revisions of CEO handbook

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Staff writer

The College Board of Trustees' chief focus at their meeting Wednesday was on the revision of the new handbook for the CEO relations and responsibly that was bought up during the last session.

Concerns were raised by Trustee John Weed about some of the clarifications of some sentences that might need revision again, but the Board concluded that the handbook was ready and had been approved by most. It will be used by current and prospective board members.

Additionally, the board went over the time limits that can hold back members from saying or completely expressing themselves. So a motion was proposed and passed to have some additional time for members to speak

and thank those who made presentations.

The Board was provided with a report from the ACCT (Association of Community College Trustees), which is the commission that helps the Board of Trustees with reports and statistics about campus information, whether it be regarding the percentage of enrollment or any classroom statistics.

ACCT is "a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States," according to their website, <http://www.acct.org/about/>.

The group's goals include "Enhance[ing] the image and foster greater public appreciation of community colleges and their governing boards, support[ing] community college boards in their efforts to govern and develop

policies that focus on meeting community needs, help build community college board leadership and advocacy capacity through education and training programs, [and] assist community college boards in the recruitment, selection and retention of chief executive officers of the highest caliber."

The three new improvements that were identified were the Assessment of Self, Organization of the Institution and the construction of the recommendations. The Board was asked to look out for more aid for students and teachers to make getting information quicker and more efficient, along with accessibility for all.

Lastly, the board talked about the policy level of the exercises used by the board. They concluded that they too, like most other policies, were to be kept high, and it was to be added and discussed more in the next meet-

ing, as it needed consideration and revision to what is and what is not in the bounds of the board.

They touched upon the timeline for any upcoming events, such as The Halloween Trilogy, which will open tonight.

The Board also discussed the admissions issues raised last meeting by the faculty senate and how the possibility of rejecting special students would really work, though that seems to not be the case as they are still in the process of trying to find a solution for this problem.

Aside from the ASOC informing them of their campus activities, and there being no new updates as far college news goes, they closed the meeting by discussing their weekend outreaches to the community.

The next meeting will be Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Child Development Center.