

College makes plans for planning summit

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

Classes will be canceled Thursday, March 12 for a college-wide planning summit, the College Council announced at its meeting Monday.

The summit, which will feature faculty members, staff members and a number of student leaders, is currently scheduled to occur in the gymnasium from 1 to 4 p.m. President Gari Browning, along with members of the College Council, will hold the meeting to

discuss and make necessary changes to the college's goals, objectives and mission statement so that the college can return to good standing with the Accrediting Committee for Junior and Community Colleges, who issued a 50-page report reprimanding the behavior of the College Board of Trustees last July following a visit to Ohlone.

The reprimand focused on the micro-managing and infighting that characterized many Board meetings. "Board members who do not vote with the majority have an ethical

obligation to not undermine the decisions of the majority," the report stated.

The report placed the college on "warning" status, requiring it to submit two reports detailing the steps it has taken to mend those shortcomings—one due by Oct. 15, 2008 and another by March 1 of this year—to avoid losing its accreditation.

Browning reported that the accreditation committee has accepted the college's first report.

Browning also released a list detailing

the accreditation status of other institutes to illustrate that Ohlone is in fairly good shape. Browning was very optimistic of Ohlone's success, stating, "I believe we are in a very good situation," referring to the college getting closer to meeting the goals set by the committee. However, Browning said that the college would retain its warning status until the next meeting in June.

Accreditation allows credits earned at a community college to be used toward classes at UC's and state colleges.

Over objections, Board approves electronic sign

By ZUHAL BAHADURI
Staff writer

The College Board of Trustees voted to finalize the installation of an electronic event sign in front of the Newark campus at their meeting Wednesday.

The Board had initially voted the proposition through last month, but Board Vice Chairman John Weed chose to bring the topic up for discussion again because of concerns

about the distracting nature of the sign. The podium sign, similar to the electronic signs on the Fremont Campus at Pine and Anza streets, would be erected near the traffic signal in front of the Newark campus.

Vice President of Administrative Services Mike Calegari said that as the signage is merely for student, faculty and staff and constituents of the college to know what events are coming up and be aware of

campus activities and advertisement for outsiders on the college campus, it should be allowed. Weed, nonetheless, suggested that another location be found for the electronic marquee signage, at a more functional location.

The Board voted to install the sign 7-2, with Trustee Bill McMillin and Weed dissenting.

Dean of the Health Sciences and Environmental Studies Division Gale Carli announced to the Board

that the Chancellor's office recently approved several environmental studies classes. The classes will now transfer to Cal State East Bay, whereas they formerly did not.

Carli also pointed out that while the nursing program has a very high number of full-time instructors teaching classes (38 percent are taught by full-time instructors), the environmental studies courses are taught predominantly by adjunct faculty (only 4 percent are full-

time). Still, Carli said that percentage should soon increase.

Carli stated that the retention and success rates in the environmental studies courses are excellent, which she attributed to exceptional faculty and well-developed curriculum. In addition, said Carli, Ohlone is currently collaborating with East Bay and East Bay Green Academy companies, to try to work together to support the development of green technology.

Psych author to lecture on evolution, people

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delusions, and why people are so gullible, all in a witty talk that has been described as a no-holds-barred attack on the pseudoscience of today.

One of Shermer's key areas of focus has been on evolution. According to Psychology Professor Sheldon Helms, he sees himself as a protector of science and evolution. He writes against such things as the teaching of "intelligent design," also known as creationism, which he claims is unconstitutional. He takes on a scientific approach when analyzing bizarre beliefs, and asks himself why people believe in these things. He asks, how can people require such little evidence before

believing?

Besides his extensive contributions to the social science world, Shermer also studies the psychology of the stock market: how people invest, and their greed for money. His most recent book, *The Mind of the Market: Compassionate Apes, Competitive Humans, and Other Tales from Evolutionary Economics*, provides an in-depth look at the world of evolutionary economics. His books are available at the bookstore right now, and he will hold a book signing after the talk.

His appearance is being sponsored by the Psychology Club, as well as the ASOC.

Tickets for the talk may be purchased at the Box Office at the Smith Center for \$10.



Photo courtesy of Michael Shermer

Economist and Skeptic magazine author Michael Shermer will speak at Ohlone on March 6.



Photo by Jorge Gomez

Brandon Hughes does his rendition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech.

Black history

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my expectations 300 percent." Trigg said that the event was the product of three weeks of planning and that she was "very proud of Ohlone" for its support. Trigg said that Browning is set to announce a proclamation of the event Wednesday night.

Trigg, along with second year counselor Yvonka Headley, said that the event will become an annual

occurrence at the college.

Headley said that the goals of the event were to "increase awareness of African American successes and to celebrate the heritage of African Americans with others while promoting racial harmony and understanding." Headley also acknowledged the entire committee for their help and support in putting on the event.

Serve yourself, sit down, and relax while enjoying a healthy treat.

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