Construction reinvents campus for fall semester

By JOE NICHOLS
News editor

With the water intrusion project that started last semester now complete, Ohlone Facilities have now moved on to some of the health and safety quick-fix projects that were approved within the Measure G Bond. The current project involves inspecting and replacing roofing tiles and flashing on the older buildings on the Fremont Campus, according to Ohlone Public Information Officer Patrice Birkedahl. The project is being done to address potential safety concerns with loose tiles falling off the roof and injuring students. The quick fix projects were approved by the board, but the timing of the projects were still being worked out, said Birkedahl.

The reason for this quick fix according to Birkedahl is the ceramics roofing tiles and the flashing under the tiles have come loose. If not fixed, they may start to slide off the roof and potentially injure staff and students. In addition to the roof on Building 1, the roofs on buildings 5, 8 and 9 will be inspected for loose tiles. This is being done as an interim measure to ensure safe campus facilities until the Board of Trustees can move forward on the new buildings, Birkedahl said.

Meanwhile, students and staff can enjoy the newly built stairs. The associated landscaping has not only made the pond behind Building 5 more accessible, but it also has given the area a facelift. The next step is the board to hire an architectural firm and begin to draw up the new building plans.

Smoking proposal raises questions on main campus

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a national movement to get smoking banned on all college campuses both private and public. Instructional Aide David Stagnaro said.

Instructional Aide David Wood talked on how different studies show that the original study conducted by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. In his address he stated that the evidence gathered in the EPAs study showed no statistical evidence that smoking bans are effective at keeping people from smoking in areas that have bans in effect. Several other alternatives were discussed.

This included setting up clearly defined smoking areas and any stiff penalties for those who smoke outside of those areas.

“It becomes an issue of enforcement,” Vice President of Academic Affairs Leta Stagnaro said.

Under the current rules, a student who is found smoking outside of the parking lots is issued a citation. If a student receives three citations, the student is then referred over to student affairs.

The council decided to postpone taking a vote on the subject. The two representatives from the Associated Students of Ohlone College were not present at the meeting.

The smoking ban will be addressed at the next College Council meeting Sept. 17.