PORTABLE CLASSROOMS NOT READY

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Little said the low voltage and data connections were not necessary for the general classrooms and offices, and so the plan was to complete them during Phase Two of construction. However, the DSA required that those connections be completed for the Phase One buildings before the necessary permits could be granted.

“It was a tight schedule to begin with,” said Little, explaining the decision to delay use of the buildings.

While the delay did end up causing some confusion at the start of the semester, it will not directly cost Ohlone any extra money, Little said, explaining that Ohlone will not begin lease payments to Mobile Modular for the classrooms until the buildings are actually occupied by students.

Also, Little said, there is an upside to the delay. When students begin using the classrooms next spring, the asphalt should be resurfaced, the landscaping should be completed and the area should look more like a village than a construction site.

LINGERING EFFECTS OF SEPT. 11 ATTACKS

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Niazi said he still is treated as though he had something to do with the tragedy that happened on the other side of the country, but he doesn’t let it affect his self-image.

Sept. 11, 2001, will always mark one of the most tragic days in American history. The outcome left many people bitter, and sometimes created strife between Muslim and non-Muslim Americans. Here however, amid the diversity found on Ohlone’s campus, is an example of how strength of character can overcome the oppressive influence of fear and hatred.

OHLONE ACCREDITATION REPORT RELEASED

The accreditation team, which evaluated Ohlone College last March, released its official report over the summer. The report reaffirmed Ohlone’s accreditation for another six years.

This is the excellent outcome we were striving for,” Ohlone President Gari Browning said in her State of the College address in August.

Browning went on to say Ohlone was one of seven colleges to be reaffirmed out of 18 colleges looked at by the commission.

Some of our neighbor colleges, including West Valley, Mission, Evergreen Valley, and San Jose City were among those sanctioned,” Browning said.

The accreditation report included eight commendations for Ohlone. According to Browning, most colleges receive only two or three commendations. “In several areas where other colleges typically receive recommendations, we received praise,” she said.

The report also included seven recommendations for Ohlone. Three recommendations address urgent issues Ohlone should address in order to meet accreditation standards. Ohlone will have to provide a follow-up report addressing those issues by March 15.

The other four recommendations are intended to help Ohlone increase its institutional effectiveness. Ohlone is expected to show progress on those issues by the time its midterm report is due, in three years.

The accreditation report also followed up on recommendations made at the time of the last evaluation in 2008. The report indicated that Ohlone had successfully met all eight of the previous recommendations.

The entire report is available at www.ohlone.edu/accreditation.