Browning gives State of the College address

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completed on time in August.

In December, the swimming pool was emptied and its renovation started. The changes to the pool are meant to better fit Ohlone’s needs. The new pool is expected to save water, energy and chemicals. The renovation is expected to be finished by August.

“So you can see progress is a little uneven, but we’re getting there,” Browning said.

Budget

Browning then went on to address the college’s funding from the state, including Gov. Jerry Brown’s preliminary budget, released in January.

“Reaction to the governor’s proposal from the community colleges is mixed at best,” she said. “There is concern about the lack of ongoing money in favor of one-time and restricted money.” It seems Governor Brown has made climate change, paying down debts, and alleviating poverty his top priorities this year. Funding for education is adequate but many note that it is down from last year.

Culture of Inclusiveness

Ohlone has always been on the forefront of celebrating diversity and cultivating an inclusive environment for members of the community, Browning said. But she discussed initiatives the college is taking to further expand this culture of inclusiveness.

Ohlone is establishing a task force to “analyze the need for an ethnic studies program” and what effects it would have on improving the academic experience of underrepresented students. Jennifer Jovel, a sociology professor, has agreed to head the task force.

In an effort to spearhead an inclusive agenda, the Ohlone Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (ODIAC) was created and is in its beginning stages. The committee is hoping to hold a few events this semester that address relevant social issues. Browning welcomed ideas, saying, “If you have particular concerns or suggestions, please send them directly to me or the chairs of ODIAC, Shairon Zingsheim and Jeff Dean.”

To watch a recording of the State of the College Address go to www.ustream.tv/channel/ohlonecollegeevents.

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