



## **INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**November 2008**

It has been a trying couple of months and while you haven't received the IH from me in a few weeks, it is because the budget news has been changing almost daily and I don't want to give you false information. You are all aware of the economic crisis we find ourselves in at both the state and national levels, and we at Cabrillo are not escaping this unscathed. With the budget uncertainties, the likelihood of severe mid-year cuts and the prospects for even more draconian cuts next year, we have all been working to identify cuts that are the least painful to the students, your programs and the college as a whole. However, we all know it's impossible to make millions of dollars of cuts without affecting anyone. I'm also aware that there is considerable anxiety among the faculty and staff, especially among our adjunct faculty. In preparation for our mid-year shortfall, we cut over 150 TUs out of this year's budget, the majority of them in spring semester. We are planning for the budget reductions in three stages:

- 08-09 mid-year cuts: we eliminated cybersession altogether from the spring schedule and reduced a number of face-to-face classes in each division.
- 09-10 base budget reductions: we have identified a minimum of 358 TUs to reduce from the base budget. Our starting parameters were to look at redundant sections in summer, winter, and off-campus locations. However, the PCs and Deans have latitude within the individual departments to move those reductions around. For instance, if a dean and program chair think it makes more sense to eliminate a section from the fall schedule rather than a summer section, they may do so. The initial parameters were to serve as a logical framework, not a mandate.
- Long term planning: We have not begun this phase yet. The college will begin a process for determining long-term enrollment goals given the constraints of the state budget. I will keep you apprised of our progress once that is underway.

Brian has been sending regular email messages out to all of you to keep you informed of the budget news from Sacramento and its direct impact on Cabrillo. We have decided that it is best for such news with District-wide impact to come from one source, so you should expect to receive these missives from Brian. Last week, he hosted a town hall forum as well, which was well attended. There were good questions raised and healthy dialogue about the issues facing us. There soon will also be a webpage on the budget and budget updates with FAQs. I will email all of you once that is completed.

I want to thank all of you for your understanding and patience in these difficult times. We need to stick together and work together to get through this. Our thoughts go out to those who have to date borne the brunt of these reductions. Rest assured, we have not done so lightly.

~Renee

## ***REMINDERS***

**Finals Week:** Dec 15 – 20

**Grades Due:** Mon, Dec 22 by 5:00 p.m. (Grades are still submitted to A&R in hard copy)

**Wintersession:** Jan 5 – Jan 30, 2009

**Summer Session 2009 revised dates:**

**6-week session: June 22 – Aug 1**

**4-week session: June 22 – July 18**

**Faculty Hiring Prioritization Process:** The faculty hiring prioritization process that was initiated in early October has been frozen because of the bleak budget news. Several programs did submit position proposals and made presentations to the Faculty Senate, and the Senate and the Deans respectively voted to rank the positions. However, the same day as the presentations, BOG (Board of Governors) voted to suspend any FON increases for '09-'10, holding Districts responsible for their '08-'09 levels. Since Cabrillo is well over the FON, the District will not be hiring new full-time faculty for '09-'10. Given that, the Faculty Senate President, CCFT President and I agreed that the entire process should be frozen at that point, and that we would hold harmless any department that had submitted position requests for replacement points.

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Faculty & Staff Holiday Party at the bookstore! (from Robin Ellis, Bookstore Manager)  
Tuesday, December 9, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Enjoy the expanded gift and book areas and special sale prices on many items in addition to your 20% faculty & staff discount! Refreshments provided and a huge selection of cool raffle prizes. Win an Apple iPod, bags & backpacks by Dakine, \$25 iTunes gift cards and more! Enter just by coming down and checking out your new bookstore! See special link on the bookstore website for the "Faculty and Staff Holiday Party" at: [cabrillobooks.net](http://cabrillobooks.net)

Beth Regards has been selected to participate on the BAWFC advisory work group to enhance the Basic Skills Initiative Phase III to help CTE faculty develop contextualized basic skills teaching and learning. They are researching existing programs that provide instructional development support in order to build a network that is most helpful for faculty professional development. She is asking for your input about best practices for building professional development learning communities. If you know of other states with exemplary programs, they want to study those as well. For more information, contact Beth at [beregard@cabrillo.edu](mailto:beregard@cabrillo.edu).

Congratulations to Debora Bone on the publication of her article, "Epidurals not Emotions: the Care Deficit in US Maternity Care," in *Emotions in Midwifery and Reproduction*, edited by Billie Hunter and Ruth Deery. 2009, Palgrave Macmillan, UK.

Congratulations also to Kathy Cowen for her article, "'No le entiendo': A Stranger in a Strange Land," which has been accepted for publication in the spring issue of *Inside English*. It is about

her experiences studying in immersion programs and how they have positively affected her teaching English Language Learners.

### ***SPOTLIGHT ON***

#### **Energy Academy:** (submitted by Sue Tappero)

The Energy Academy is a new summer program funded by an NSF grant over a five year period. This is the first year of the grant, and in early July the Energy Academy began with 25 students at the beginning of their college careers, many undecided on a major, who were recruited from Cabrillo beginning math classes or the high schools. Students were on site from 8:30-12:30 Monday through Friday for four weeks. Karen Groppi, John Welch, and Luis Sonsino were the lead faculty.

Karen Groppi, a Cabrillo engineering faculty member, began in week 1 with the concept of forms of energy, peak oil, carbon footprints, carbon trading, the relationship of energy expended versus energy released and measuring energy requirements of common appliances. She used games, group research projects, lab experiments and excel explorations to help get the message across, and students had to work together collaboratively in groups.

John Welch, the lead instructor for the second week, was the author of inventive activities and games used throughout the month. His expertise in physics and knowledge of what materials were available already in the Physics Lab was invaluable. In week 2 he introduced many principles of electricity and power generation such as voltage, amperage, and power, and taught students skills needed to measure, build and analyze electrical circuits and machines. Some students really enjoyed learning how to solder and to wire circuits in parallel and series. They took the group on a field trip to see a local home that is off-grid, powered mostly by solar. The culmination of week 2 was the activity of 'deconstructing' electronic games, appliances and machinery to see what made them work.

Building on all of the concepts introduced in weeks 1 and 2, Luis Sonsino, a CEM faculty member, took over the lead in week 3, bringing the principles of photovoltaics and other forms of harnessing solar power into the lab activities. Students built toys from recycled materials, small motors and batteries, analyzed the power needs of them and ultimately converted them to being powered by photovoltaic cells, incorporating an energy storage system into the design when needed. They practiced using tools from the solar industry to do site analysis and observed and analyzed all aspects of Cabrillo's solar installation. By the end of this week, students could solve basic problems related to solar systems design.

A community service project was a required part of the Academy, and this year's theme was education. From the beginning of the program, students were given time to form groups, plan presentations, choose the desired audience and build projects. In week 4, they practiced giving their presentations to each other, then went out into the community and made presentations on two consecutive days. The last day, students discussed the experiences they had in their

community service projects--initial fears, the feeling of satisfaction at getting a message across, and their sense of pride in the accomplishment.

The students' projects were remarkably varied;

- Three groups built solar ovens and took them out to the beaches or other public places to educate the public about this easy and direct way to harness the sun.
  - One group developed a game for elementary school age students that taught them about what kinds of everyday items could be recycled and how they would be reused.
  - One group chose to give an overview of alternative energy options to an adult audience, incorporating some hands-on demos.
  - One group led elementary age students in an activity to build a hovercraft they had designed, using readily available, inexpensive materials
  - One group developed an animation to educate younger students about renewable energies.
- Follow this link ([cabrillosteep.org](http://cabrillosteep.org)) and click on "Fossil Failure" to view it for yourselves.

We were impressed with the quality of the students' work on their community service projects, and the students were also impressed by what they were able to do. These community agencies hosted the presentations: the Santa Cruz's Boys and Girls Club, HOWL camp, students in grades 1-8 at Watsonville YMCA, Watsonville adult school, and Cabrillo College.

The Energy Academy has been a process of transformation, in which the students were able to use science as a tool to rediscover themselves and the world.

### ***WHAT WE'RE READING***

Renee Kilmer, *Animals Matter: A Biologist Explains Why We Should Treat Animals with Compassion and Respect* by Marc Bekoff. In this book, biology professor and Guggenheim recipient Marc Bekoff provides insightful information on cognitive ethology and offers a new way of thinking about the human relationship to animals, along with the distinction between animal welfare and animal rights. It is a fascinating book, well worth reading.

### ***HAPPY THANKSGIVING!***