



Inside this issue:

Tombstones	2
Public Committee	2
Chancellor Baron	3
Student Trustee	4
Advisor Thanks	4

Cut courses

Eng 101, 116, 152, 02, 08, 914, 01, 015, 05, 14, 05, 09
Lib 100
Math 095, 09, 102, 05, 103, 01, 942, 03, 15, 108, 04
PE 105, 03, 106, 108, 143, 02
Psych 100, 70, 111, 02, 71
Read 078, 05, 925, 02
CIS 184, 130
Mrkt 106
Soc 130, 60
PCD 111, 01, 70
Music 120, 71, 135, 02
Art 132, 02, 201, 01
Astron 150, 60
Geol 101, 60
Hist 101, 60
Poli Sci 100, 60
Anthro 102, 60
Adjus 107, 01, 106
Span 015, 01, 120, 101, 05
Chem 123, 70
Acct 105, 01
ASL 101, 03
French 102, 01
Phil 103, 71
Health 102, 01
Spch 120, 01, 100, 03
Thart 205, 01
Econ 200, 70

Spring Semester

Special Edition

Budget cuts on the Crafton Hills campus

By Kelsey Rhoades
ASCHC Publicity Senator

Budget cuts in education are happening nationwide and effecting Crafton Hills College (CHC) in an equally negative way.

This spring, over seventy sections of classes were cut, slowing down the education process for many students.

On a larger scale, many students who are ready to transfer have not been able to do so due to four year universities reducing the admittance numbers of incoming students, both freshman and transfers.

Like a domino effect, more students are going to community colleges, which has left CHC, along with many other schools, dealing with classes which are over capacity.

Reforms in the ways in which education is



funded are necessary in order to resolve these issues.

With needed reforms not currently insight, more problems are arising. Many, or most, summer courses at Crafton will likely be cut as well.

Core transfer courses, like Math and English, will still be offered. The budget cuts have not only affected classes but they have also affected student services, such as

Health & Wellness and EOP&S.

The budgets of these student services have been cut severely, limiting the amount and quality of service that students can receive.

Overall, the cuts to education have affected millions of students nationwide, and we are feeling the same effects locally at CHC.

The high volume of students now in the

remaining classes have led to an increase in the student to teacher ratio, possibly leading to less effective learning and teaching.

The effects of these cuts will still be felt after the financial problems have been corrected, but if reform does come, we can hope to see positive changes in classes offered, class size, and student services sometime in the future.

Note from CHC Student Life Director



By Ericka Paddock
ASCHC Advisor

The Associated Student (ASCHC) Tombstone display was created in hopes that you would take note of the impact

that the recent state budget cuts had on our campus.

What prompted the ASCHC, like their predecessors in North Carolina to host a non violent, mild form of protest? For most of us, our college experience is a time when we begin to challenge assumptions we've made in the past and start to develop our own opinions.

Coincidentally, it may also be the first time we take an active role in real world issues and learn how to participate in a democracy.

The ASCHC's political statement might seem a bit intimidat-

ing if you haven't been keeping up with current events as much as you'd like to. That's okay.

There are plenty of ways to be civically responsible without knowing much about state politics. Did you vote in the last presidential election? Have you volunteered for a worthy cause lately? Are you a member of a campus club? As educators, our hope is that if you can get involved on campus now, you'll be a productive member of your community later.

The first step is always the hardest. We'll be here when you're ready.

Rest in peace: student's classes slashed and buried

By Kelsey Rhoades
ASCHC Publicity Senator

Due to state budget cuts, over 70 classes have been cut for the spring 2010 semester at Crafton Hills College.

To show their dismay over the loss of classes and diminishing opportunities for students attending Crafton Hills College, the Associated Students of Crafton Hills has created and placing tombstones bearing the titles of cancelled classes in one of the open grass areas on the campus.

Along with the tombstones, comment cards will be available for students to express their feelings about losing classes, and the adverse effects it has had on the student population. The tombstones will be placed during the first week of February.



Members of the Associated Students plan to attend the February 11th meeting of the Board of Trustees of the San Bernardino Community College District to present the comment cards during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Students who wish to express their

views concerning the impact budget cuts have had on the ability of Crafton Hills College to offer a quality education are encouraged to attend the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Community College district office in San Bernardino at 4:00pm.

CHC students speak at public committee meeting



By Kaylee Hrisoulas
Student Trustee

Students all over CHC began their first day of spring classes listening to their professors' voices; their frustrations, concerns, and opinions about the recent classes cut, registration caps, and

overcrowded classrooms both at CHC and statewide. Frankly, the professors have the right to express how they feel.

The CHC faculty is taking as many hits as the students they teach. Most faculty members are filling their classrooms to capacity without in-

terfering with safety regulations. In addition to serving more students than ever without any extra pay, the faculty is also extremely involved in the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges which serves as the official voice to the concerns of all faculty members locally and statewide.

That being said, our faculty is standing up for their rights, but what can the average student do to express their opinions and stand up for their rights as students?

The Associated Students and Student Trustee of CHC have an answer to that. In addition to staking the CHC campus grounds with 50+ tombstones representing the classes cut this spring, we are inviting all students to the February 11th Board of Trus-

tees meeting at 4pm to share how class cuts impacted your life to the elected Trustees, college Presidents, and Acting Chancellor of our District.

We are not looking to start an angry riot or protest, but to simply make our representatives and decision makers aware of the cuts through a student's eyes and show them that we are taking a proactive role in our education.

If this is something you are interested in, please visit the Student Senate office located next to the Cafeteria, or stop by the AS Day table February 9th and 10th from 9:00AM to 1:00PM in the cafeteria.

CHC students, this is your chance to tell your story to the decision makers of CHC and SBVC and take control of your education.

Interview with



Bruce Baron is the Acting Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District. While in this position, Baron oversees issues concerning Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College as well as the district in its entirety. Baron is in the process of launching his budget plans for the 2010-2011 school year.

Q: How do the students' needs come into play in the budget cut decision making process?

A: The needs of students are the FIRST priority when making decisions to reduce budget. Each college president has the responsibility, working with their teams, to determine where to make budget cuts. In this case, both campuses had to make reductions in courses offered. In many cases, low enrolled classes are cut because of the need to maximize student enrollments to serve the most students. Of course, some classes must have a lower number of enrollments because the quality of the education and the accreditation guidelines are very specific about class size. All of those requirements are taken into consideration. Reductions are also made in those areas that will not affect class offerings such as supplies, operating expenditures and equipment. Each college made significant savings by reducing the number of dollars spent in those areas. And finally, the colleges have a number of vacant jobs that are not filled to achieve savings in the budget. ALL BUDGET REDUCTION DECISIONS ARE MADE WITH THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS IN MIND.

Q: Would you say that the students' are the top priority when considering what programs to cut, why?

A: SBCCD is about the student and about teaching and learning. We have a very dedicated faculty and staff who deeply care about our students which is why they are in this chosen profession. This year, with the large state budget cuts, our faculty and staff are showing their commitment to students by taking in more students in each class and by providing more support services to students than our budget permits. It's really because of students being our TOP PRIORITY that these decisions are made.

Q: From a student's perspective, it seems that classes are being affected the most. What besides courses are being cut?

A: Classes have been cut this year because that is how the state budget cuts were determined and handed down to the colleges. Other cuts have been made in hiring full-time staff positions and benefits for those positions, reductions have been made in supplies, equipment, and other operating costs. Reductions of over \$700,000 were made at the District Office alone. The students don't see those cuts directly but by reducing costs at the District Office we are able to save additional classes and other services to students at the two campuses.

Q: How did the district think that the student body would react to the cuts? Did they consider the adverse affects that the cuts would have on the students?

A: Student reaction to the budget was the top consideration on the minds of administration as these state budget reductions were being implemented. The budget cuts that were made at each campus were purposely determined to have the least impact on students as possible. Of course, it would not be a budget cut if it did not significantly impact our ability to provide instruction and services to students. However, students are always first and cuts were made WHILE ALWAYS CONSIDERING STUDENTS. Unfortunately, the state has put us in a position to make these significant budget cuts and they will be felt by everyone.

Q: Do students have an active voice in this process? If so, how much would you say they are involved?

A: Student government is an integral part of the collegial consultation process. Students have a seat at the table as virtually all of the important processes as recommendations are made at the colleges and the District. Students, because of their dual role as students and campus leaders, are often unable to actively participate in all of these activities. Specifically, on the Crafton Hills campus the student government leadership has actively sought information about the budget and has taken the opportunity on several occasions to meet with me personally to review the budget and to discuss the impact of the budget on students. As the Acting Chancellor I strongly encourage students to participate in this process and to take advantage of their right to a voice in the shared decision-making process.

Q: It seems that the recent cuts were not well publicized to the students. Why is that? Are students going to have more notice in the future?

A: Communications on the campuses is primarily the role of the college president and the leaders of each constituency group. What that means is that the faculty leadership informs their members of information; student leadership informs their members, etc. However, I realize that this is often difficult given everyone's busy schedule and lack of understanding about the details of the budget. I will commit to provide the student leadership, as well as the student media, with budget information as new and significant developments occur. I also suggest that the student leaders and the student media ask to meet with the college presidents to discuss issues of concern to them such as the budget. This outreach will allow for strong dialogue to take place between students and the campus leaders and will help to have questions answered so students can feel better informed.

Q: How will the students of our district be kept up to date with the budgets, how can we get information?

A: I encourage all students to be advocates for the community college system by staying informed at the state level. Read the newspapers, check the Governor's budget issues website. Read the State Chancellor's Office website. Stay in touch with what is happening in our state. Also, I encourage the student media to ask questions. I suggest the student government and student media meet periodically with their college presidents and Academic Senate leadership to discuss the budget and how it is affecting students. My door is always open to students to discuss the budget or any other topic.

Q: Who can students contact regarding the information being posted?

A: Students are welcome to contact the college president's office for information or the Chancellor Office for information. We are here for the students in every way.

Interview with Crafton Hills Student Trustee

Q: What is your role as student trustee and how were you chosen?

A: I represent all Crafton Hills College Students at monthly Board of Trustee meetings and I was elected by the student body.

Q: What is your job description as Trustee?

A: As Trustee, I have to attend Board of Trustee meetings and read the board book which has all of the consent items and the action items, affecting the district that month.

Q: Is Student Trustee part of Associated Students of Crafton Hills College?

A: No, because the student trustee position falls under the supervision of the district board of trustees.

Q: What is the Board of Trustees?

A: The Board of Trustees is the governing board elected by the contingents of San Bernardino to direct the policies of the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD).

Q: What do you do for the students, how do you represent them?

A: I bring issues that are going on at CHC [what students face on campus] and I tell the Board; I make them aware of what is going on with the student body

Q: Do you have an active say in what takes place on campus?

A: My vote is an advisory vote, which means that I can tell the Board my opinion, but it does not have any weight. I put my input in as the 'Student Rep' and how I believe CHC students would feel. My vote is more symbolic because

the Board represents CHC and SBVC as well as the district. When the student trustee of one college says yes or no, that is 6000 students that are being brought into consideration. They have to realize that those 6000 students are their voters.

Q: How do you interact with students and how are you available to them?

A: I listen to student complaints and depending on the issue and the commonality of the issue then I bring it to the Board's attention. It is difficult to really get the full spectrum of the student body. My involvement with ASCHC helps me keep in tabs with the student body and I also look to clubs and organizations to get in touch with students because I know that there will be more than one student there. Also because these students are involved they are keener to voice their woes. I also try to make friends with people in my classes so I can reach the common student. I am always open to students.

Q: What do you want CHC students to know about your position?

A: I am your direct communication to the decisions makers of CHC, SBVC and the district as a whole. Students need to use me. If students would like to contact me, they can pick up my contact information at the Student Life Office next to the cafeteria.

Q: What is Region 9 and how is it different from the Board of Trustees

A: Region 9 monthly conference where our region of community colleges meets to discuss what is going on on our campuses. It is different than the Board because you do not have to be a member of student senate to attend or have any title whatsoever, but if you want to become a delegate, you have to be elected by the student



CHC Student Trustee Kaylee Hrisoulas

senate. I technically cannot be delegate, because I am the communications officer which means that I am in charge of keeping every college in the region connected. I was nominated and elected to be in this position by the college delegates who are the student government elected officials.

Q: What do you know about the budget cuts?

A: They are state-wide and happening to every type of school; community college and four year. Not one California community college is exempt. The cuts are caused by long term budgetary issues at the state level.

Q: What have you as Trustee been doing in regards to the budget cuts?

A: All I can do is not sugar coat things. I tell the Board how I see things through the eyes of a student. As I said, my vote is purely symbolic. They do not have to listen to my opinion. On campus, I have played a larger role in the tombstone project and getting the word out to the school newspaper.

The *Advisor* gives a special thanks to:

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The Associated Students of Crafton Hills College

Any upcoming events that you want included in the Events Calendar ? Have any news stories for the *Advisor*? Want to be a staff writer, photographer, or graphic artist for the *Advisor*? Contact megancrigler@gmail.com