

President's Message – Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Greetings everyone! I have a lot of news to share today.

We have been absolutely hopping! Over the past 10 days, Cal Poly Pomona has sponsored several major community events, including the Pumpkin Festival & Insect Fair, Matt's Run, the Poly Palooza Preview Day for prospective students and their parents, the Great California ShakeOut campus-wide emergency drill and, most important, a three-day accreditation visit from the WASC Educational Effectiveness Review team. Our ability to pull all of these things together in an exceptional way is a testament to the commitment and passion of our university community.

Let me first address what has been on everyone's plate for some time. Last Friday morning, I met with the WASC visiting team, led by chair Dr. Howard Cohen, the chancellor at Purdue University Calumet. While the formal written evaluation will be forthcoming, it's clear that we performed extremely well. The visiting team congratulated the university in a number of areas including the development and implementation of the new strategic plan, the application of our learn-by-doing model, greater clarity and a sense of mutual respect in our shared governance process. [A comprehensive story on the team's exit briefing with the campus is available on PolyCentric.](#)

But it's important to share a quote from Dr. Cohen. "You should feel very good about the work you're doing and feel very good about your students. The students here understand your commitment to their success and are appreciative."

It's safe to say that all of us can be very proud of where Cal Poly Pomona is today.

As you probably know, we are in the midst of our open application period for Fall 2011. Planning for our annual enrollment targets remains one of the most complicated, challenging and, at times, frustrating processes. The Chancellor's Office provides FTE targets for every campus, reflecting how much funding we are projected to receive from the state. Hitting that number is incredibly difficult, but our team in enrollment management has done a remarkable job since I have been here.

Last spring, our target was 16,123 FTE for 2010-11 – and we nailed it. But over the past six weeks, CSU campuses have been asked to elevate their 2010-11 enrollment multiple times. This is a reflection of additional federal stimulus funds and the recent approval of our state budget. A couple of weeks ago, I shared that we will enroll 1,600 additional students in the winter and spring quarters combined: 1,200 transfer students, 200 graduate students and 200 students in credential programs.

Since then, all campuses have been asked to continue enrolling new students. Cal Poly Pomona is now admitting a limited number of new students for the winter and spring quarters of this academic year. They are predominantly transfer students from local community colleges who would have been admissible for this year had our projected funding been stronger. Our new target FTE for 2010-11 will be 17,228.

It remains our intent to add class sections and seats to better serve our current students on the path to graduation. This will be most evident in our bottleneck courses. But keep in mind that our average course load for students already exceeds 13 units per quarter.

All of this planning must be predicated on some hard realities. The new governor may well determine that the 2010-11 state budget is not in line with California's revenues. Experts are already pegging the current deficit somewhere between \$6 and 10 billion. New leadership may require that all state agencies adjust budgets accordingly.

Therefore, Cal Poly Pomona will take a conservative stance. Our primary focus will be on the degree progression of our enrolled students. We need to make sure that they have the classes, advising and support they need to be successful.

No question, I am going to have a lot to share on our budget and enrollment issues in the coming weeks and months. Stay tuned.

I want to thank our emergency preparedness team, as well as all of the floor captains and building marshals, for their efforts last week with the [Great California ShakeOut](#). This exercise was designed to train our communities to respond instinctively and to identify vulnerabilities in our emergency response system. Across campus, people were instructed to drop, cover and hold on for one minute. Over 7 million people participated in this statewide drill.

So let's now imagine that the great earthquake, or any other major disaster, has come and gone. What do we do now? Do we have plans in place to resume our operations? Our business is education, so how effectively can we get our academic and support programs up and running – even if we may not have access to select campus buildings or technology?.

[Business continuity](#) is our ability to continue operations and services in the face of a disruptive event. It's about understanding, anticipating and planning for events that threaten our mission so that Cal Poly Pomona remains viable and productive. Business continuity is more than just the ability to recover from a disaster; it's the ability to continue operating before, during and after.

And as you would imagine, the key to successful business continuity is planning – well before disaster strikes. Our goal is to prepare Cal Poly Pomona to *continue* teaching, conducting research and carrying out our mission despite unexpected events. We are putting these types

of plans in place now, via conversations with faculty and staff, so that they can design and create workarounds before, rather than after, a major event. Business continuity planning is not limited to natural disasters. Our planning includes non-emergency scenarios such as loss of power, information technology or facilities.

At Cal Poly Pomona, our business continuity program is called [Poly Ready](#). Getting department plans in place is one of my priorities for this year. But this clearly cannot happen without your support. The website on your screen (<http://www.csupomona.edu/~rms/bcp.shtml>) is a great place to start. If you have questions or need some help in getting your plans off the ground, [Lisa Dye](#) is standing by to hear from you.

Please know this: Getting our business continuity plans pulled together is a priority. As I said last week, you never know when disaster is going to strike. So let's be prepared.

I am excited to share news of a special event that will be on campus next month. The Ahimsa Center will address the theme of sustainability in its fourth international conference on nonviolence. The conference will feature wide-ranging scholarship and experiences to illuminate the relationship between nonviolence and sustainability.

The conference is set for Friday and Saturday, November 12-13 in the Bronco Student Center. For more information, visit the website on your screen. (http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/conference/conference_10.shtml)

This Friday, October 29, [Cal Poly Pomona celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). At 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ursa Minor Suite of the Bronco Student Center, keynote speaker Brenda Premo will address the ADA from a federal perspective as well as how it has affected individual lives. Premo is the founding director the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy at nearby Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona.

This Thursday, October 28, at 8 p.m., the theatre department will premiere its presentation of [Harold Pinter's play "Betrayal."](#) Our theatre program always puts on a great show. You can call the box office at 909-869-3900 for more times and ticket information.

Well, that wraps it up for today. Here's hoping you have a great week.