



Local 1610

College of
MARIN

UPM's Tuesday Debriefing

November 27, 2007

Trustee-elect Dr. James Namnath Meets with UPM Executive Council

As the only non-incumbent to win a seat on the College of Marin Board of Trustees, soon to be installed Trustee Namnath attended a recent Monday meeting of the UPM Executive Council. Dr. Namnath is a former part-time instructor in Chemistry at the College and expressed his desire to remain part of CoM, even if in a different role. With five children who have attended the College, two of whom received A.A. degrees, Dr. Namnath felt he understood the College from many different perspectives. He believes there is a fundamental problem with College of Marin, but *not* one that can be expressed with just one word. Most immediately he said that he is sensitive to the Indian Valley Campus and it suffers from "vast under-utilization". Dr. Namnath also hoped to draw students to both campuses by creating something to compete with the Doyle Foundation at Santa Rosa JC (this foundation provides most SRJC students with some sort of financial aid). He would like to see an incentive fund or an endowment in Marin that could do the same for our students. The members of the Executive Council and Dr. Namnath agreed that before he officially takes office, additional meetings with UPM would be desirable.

Historical note: in the 1990's the CoM faculty donated a contractual raise to create for one-year a "Student Recruitment Fund". Our raise was used to provide any *new* CoM student or any *continuing* CoM student who increased their unit load by at least 3 units after initial registration, with money for tuition and books. The entire program was established, managed and processed by UPM. Part-time Adaptive PE instructor **Jeff Kamler** headed up the entire project. After one year the Dean of Student Services estimated that the Fund brought in \$1 million dollars in new ADA revenue. UPM offered the program to the District for continuation. The Trustees passed a resolution commending UPM for its service and contributions to the College of Marin (come see the framed and signed resolution in the UPM office!), but declined to continue the program and it ended.

Money in the Bank

You are probably aware that the Board of Trustees and management have decided that 17% is a prudent level of reserves for the District. This means that the current amount of 7.6% will have to more than double over the next years, the result being that faculty have been offered 0-0-0 over the next three years with no expectation of any raises or cost of living adjustments beyond this period. Trustees have rationalized that large reserve amount—the State of California requires a minimum reserve of 3% and has established 5% as sufficient for their purposes—to protect against a tsunami, earthquake, real estate market collapse in Marin County, loss of Basic Aid funding or some other comparable disaster.

It seemed only reasonable to inquire of another long-term Basic Aid district in the County, San Rafael City Schools, as to their financial status. A representative from that district indicated their faculty received a raise of COLA + 1% (about 5½%) and that their reserves were nowhere near 17%. In fact their representative stated that “About 5 years ago, I checked revenue over a 20 year period in our district and found that the average rate of revenue increase was 6% a year. Even in the lowest years they received a 1 or 2 percent increase [in Basic Aid funding].”

Seems like CoM will be the only school in Marin operating after the meteor hits! More “foolish” districts, like Novato City Schools, which is not a Basic Aid district, were only able to provide their faculty with a 6% raise this year.

Save the Dates!

What next? What can you do? Attend the next series of *action and informational meetings* and find out.

- Monday, December 3, 4:00 PM, LC-38
- Thursday, December 6, 3:30 PM, LC-38
- Friday, December 7. 11:00 AM, LC-38

Have a great week!

UPM Executive Council

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