



Classified Crier

Central Services Classified Senate Newsletter



December 11, 2009

A Message from the President:

Janice Lee

Hi Everyone, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

We have news hot off the press: the Board of Trustees has extended the offer of Chancellor to Linda Thor and she has accepted. She will start on February 16th. I look forward to working with her and attending the Chancellor Advisory Committee meetings.

2009-10 marks out fifth year for the Central Services Classified Senate. Our focus has always been to represent the collective interest of the classified staff in District shared governance and to actively collect, evaluate, and disseminate information for the classified professionals. Our members actively sit on committees and bring information to our monthly meetings.

We continue to honor outstanding employees through the Employee of the Month nominations and I encourage you to nominate co-workers. Those co-workers who have received this award will be honored at the Christmas Pot Luck this Friday, December 11. Please join us for our annual lunch co-hosted with the Interim Chancellor Mike Brandy and his executive team at 11:30 in the District Board Room.

If you have suggestions for your senators please refer to our web site for Senator information at URL: <http://hr.fhda.edu/personnel/classified/senate>.



The Banner Educational Information System

Tom Roza

By now, most employees have heard about Banner and the District's project to implement it, but may not know why Banner is being implemented and what really is. Since the early 1980s, the District has been using a system called IAPlus, which includes the Finance (FRS), HR/Payroll (HRS), and Student/Financial Aid (SIS) systems. IAPlus was developed using late 1970s computer concepts that had no online capabilities and the applications did not use a database system. IAPlus relies on what is called a "batch" or offline mode to update most of the data files for its components. In order to execute these batch updates, it is necessary to shutdown the system which limited the use of the system for faculty, staff, and students.

Over the past 25 years, the District has heavily modified IAPlus to make it more useful and to include online access. However, the absence of a modern database and the need to shutdown the system to make updates adversely impacted District business requirements and student access. Adding to these limitations, it was learned from the vendors that the computer operating system that supports IAPlus as well as the computing servers that IAPlus runs on was no longer going to be supported after the year 2011. This means if there is a problem with the software or hardware, there would be no one to fix them.

A decision was made in 2006 to replace IAPlus with a new state-of-the-art, web-based, database computer system. After an extensive evaluation process, in the Spring of 2008, the District decided to acquire the Banner system from a company call SunGard Higher Education (SGHE). The purchase of Banner included the following modules: Finance, HR-Payroll, Student, Financial Aid, and Advancement. In addition, two data reporting systems were acquired: Operational Data Store (ODS), and the Electronic Data Warehouse (EDW). The ODS is accessible using the currently installed Hyperion product to create required reports. EDW is used by the Institutional Research department to analyze various student related factors such as demographics and class performance.

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The Banner Educational Information System

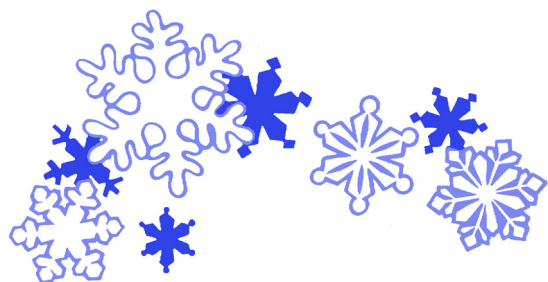
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Also acquired was a product called Luminis which is a state-of-the-art portal. The Luminis system will be called *My Portal*, and will eventually replace the existing District Portal currently in use. It will provide additional capabilities such as directed content and announcements, and direct access to Banner functions. Directed content and announcements means that based on a person's role or association with the District, they only see information that pertains to them. Faculty, staff, and students will have the ability to log into the new portal and customize it to their preference and have direct access to Banner functions without having to log in again.

Throughout most of 2008 and into 2009, implementation of Luminis and Banner progressed. In July 2009, Luminis, Banner/Finance, and the Operational Data Store (ODS) went into production. Current implementation plans for the other Banner modules are: Jan 1, 2010: HR/Payroll, March 1, 2010: Student & Financial Aid, Fall 2010: Advancement. Currently, there is extensive training, preparation and testing in progress for the HR/Payroll Go Live objective which will include online time entry for all student/employees and part-time employees.

Through the Fall of 2009 and into the first quarter of 2010, numerous testing and training activities will precede the Student & Financial Aid go live date. These include testing the following: applying for admission, registering and paying for classes, obtaining financial aid grants, and adding or dropping classes. Summer Quarter of 2010 will be the first where students will apply for admission and/or register for classes using Banner-based functionality.

A lot of work has been done, but a lot of work remains. The new Educational Information System (EIS) consisting of Luminis, Banner, and other components will provide Foothill-De Anza with a modern administrative system that will provide a significant improvement in servicing students and operating the District's business functions. For more information on Banner and the EIS project, visit the EIS web site at the URL: <http://ets.fhda.edu/>



The Evergreen Experience: A Lesson in Fiscal Accountability and Discipline

Red Lucas

Evergreen College is in the news recently over allegations of financial improprieties by its Chancellor and of its district board's failure to fulfill its oversight function. The charges range from misuse of public funds and excessive spending to undocumented expenses. Whether they have factual basis or not, the seriousness of these allegations and the public furor over them are enough to send shockwaves not only to their own turf but to the nearby school districts as well. This happening at a time when there is a widespread and deep cuts in the school budgets, which resulted in employee layoffs and students being turned away, has heightened the controversy all the more. Despite the board President's dismissal of these charges as mere rumors, a large segment of the population is waiting for the result of a thorough third party investigation.

If there is anything that this administrative mayhem has taught us, it is the fact that we cannot afford to relegate fiscal accountability to the background and that every decision that we make has a financial implication. There is no doubt that this controversy imposes extra pressure on every district board to take its oversight role more seriously to curb abuses and for the day-to-day administrators to be more cautious and diligent in the use of public resources including foundation funds. While accountability is best established through scrutiny of public transactions, it will take more than a regular audit to uncover financial irregularities. Hence, a more pro-active measure to demonstrate adherence to the principles of accountability on a consistent basis on the part of every school leadership is imperative.

In addition to the documentary requirements, expenses are normally evaluated on the basis of them being work-related, necessary and reasonable. But the predicament we are in now requires a more stern criteria. After taking the legal and compliance aspects into account, the moral and ethical dimension of the transaction must also be looked into. This is the logical response if we are to consider the gravity of the situation. In much the same vein, people tasked with review and approval functions, must be on constant watch for any hint of abuse or misuse of funds. They are in a vantage position to ensure consistent application of control measures. For pro-card holders, this means a more conscientious and disciplined spending. The district is now laying down clearer guidelines to ensure that these cards are used only for what they are intended for.

In good times or bad, let us not lose sight of our responsibilities to the public that we serve. We should never subordinate their interest over our own personal interest.

HOLIDAY RECEPIES!

CHRISTMAS BROCCOLI SALAD

Ingredients

- 4 1/2 cups broccoli florets
- 3 cups chopped sweet red pepper
- 10 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
- 1/3 cup sliced green onions
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon cider or red wine vinegar
- Dash pepper

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, vinegar and pepper until smooth. Pour over broccoli mixture; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

GREEN SALAD WITH CRANBERRY VINAIGRETTE

Ingredients

- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup fresh cranberries
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
- 4 ounces crumbled blue cheese
- 1 pound mixed salad greens

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Arrange almonds in a single layer on a baking sheet. Toast in oven for 5 minutes, or until nuts begin to brown.

2. In a blender or food processor, combine the vinegar, oil, cranberries, mustard, garlic, salt, pepper, and water. Process until smooth.

3. In a large bowl, toss the almonds, onion, blue cheese, and greens with the vinegar mixture until evenly coated.

Your 2009-2010 officers are:

President – Janice Lee	x6254
President Elect – Dawn Allshouse	x6162
Past President – Martin Varela	x6266
Secretary – Tom Roza	x5730
Treasurer – Linda Mahi	x6193



Central Services Christmas Pot luck

Please join us for the annual Central Services Holiday Party to be held in the District Board Room on Friday, December 11 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. See you there!

Editor's Note

Elvia Navarro

Thank you to all who have contributed to the newsletter. Please remember we are always looking for articles for our next quarterly issue. For submissions or possible article ideas please contact me by email at navarroelvia@fhda.edu or by phone at X6259. And don't forget to visit our web site at URL: <http://hr.fhda.edu/personnel/classified/senate>.