



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT – KEVIN TRUTNA, ED.D.
AUGUST 16, 2012

1. STUDENTS

My interactions with students have been limited due to the timing before the start of the semester. I have had several informal discussions with students who are on campus for early registration and financial aid. Abundant enthusiasm for their courses and programs are evident in my discussions with each person. In addition, I am pleased to pass along this report from Jesse Segura who says, “Two rodeo students Austin Alvernaz and Quin Hundsdorfer received the honor of being named Academic All-Americans by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. It is quite an honor as there are only 50 students nationwide and the students compete against two year and four year institutions. These students could not have achieved this without all of your support and help.”

2. PAST MONTH’S ACTIVITIES

- a. August 8-9: President’s Staff Retreat focusing on individual management goals, accreditation response plan, and updating the Strategic Plan
 - b. August 13: Classified Senate welcome
 - c. August 14: Institutional Day welcome and budget presentation
 - d. August 14: meeting with Academic Senate President regarding potential new faculty orientation
 - e. August 16: Faculty Flex welcome
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3. FRC ADVICE

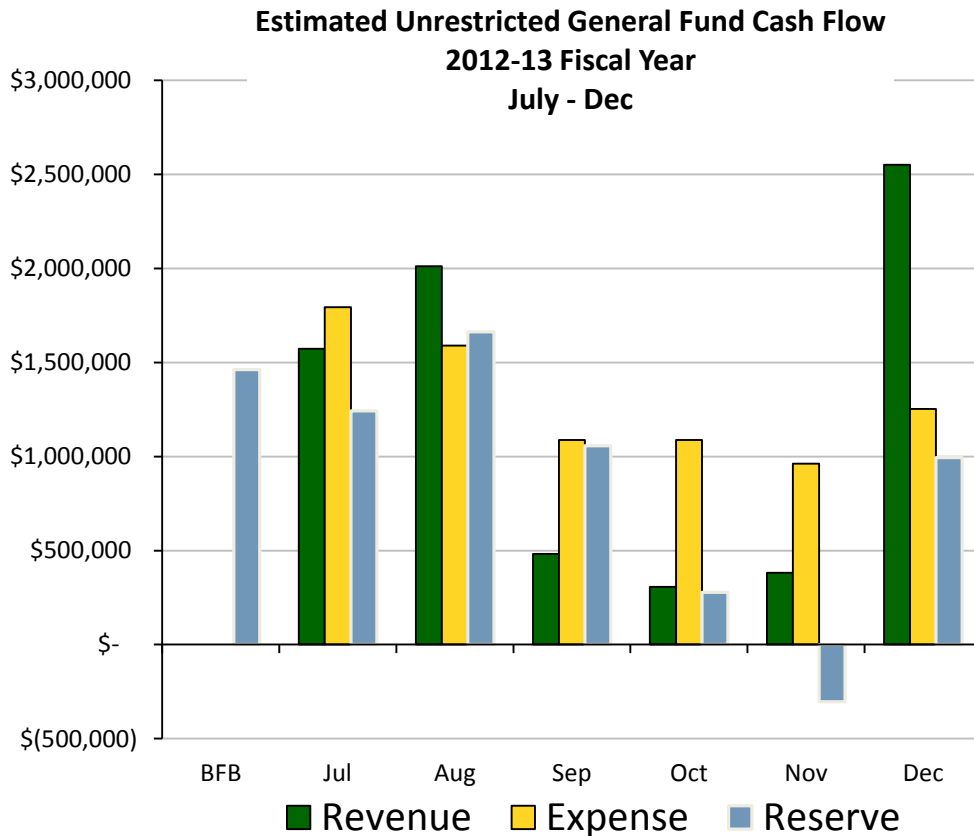
Within my introductory letter to faculty, administration, and staff, I posed the question, “What advice would you give me as the incoming Superintendent/President of FRC?” I was pleased with the number of replies and categorized the responses as:

- a. Know and understand each department
- b. Presence on campus: visit offices & classes
- c. Embed FRC in all of Plumas County
- d. Open communication
- e. Support student activities
- f. Value all staff contributions
- g. Meet each employee personally

I will use this input during my tenure at FRC to learn about the culture and prepare for the transition to the permanent Superintendent/President. Thank you to those who responded. I definitely feel the welcoming atmosphere at FRC.

4. 2012-13 BUDGET

As you are aware, a final budget is being proposed to the Board during the August 16, 2012 meeting. At Institutional Day, Jim Scoubes discussed the assumptions and criteria used in developing the budget proposal. In addition, I discussed the FRCCD cash flow situation with all faculty and staff to emphasize the need for a healthy reserve due to the impact from CCCCO deferrals. In short, we discussed the following chart as a starting point for developing the final 2012-13 budget.



5. FACILITIES UPDATE

Nick Boyd and his outstanding crew have been very busy this summer. I asked him to report on the large projects that were completed prior to the start of school:

- Rehabilitation of the Upper Green to the west of the LRC building
- Repair the fire sprinkler system in the Student Center
- Replace all of the exterior path and parking lot lights with high efficiency fixtures – 133 total
- Install hard wired fire and carbon monoxide detectors in all of the dorm rooms
- Paint the exterior of the Science, Vocational, and Maintenance Buildings

There are many other projects that they have been working on in the past few months. We all appreciate their hard work in keeping FRC facilities in great shape.

6. A COMPARISON: CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO VS. FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE

The City College of San Francisco (CCSF) has been in the news lately due to its “Show Cause” sanction from ACCJC. CCSF has until the spring semester to prepare two reports to ACCJC: one report must detail how they will address all 14 recommendations from the site visit and the other report must detail their plans to essentially shut down the institution. From what I have been reading, CCSF seems to have the dedication and renewed leadership to pull out of this dire situation and they certainly have support from their community. Nevertheless, I wanted to pass along some lessons learned from the current situation at CCSF. Following are the recommendations from ACCJC that must be addressed as reported in the August 6, 2012 issue of *CC Week*:

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| 1: Review and Revise Mission Statement | 8: Inventory Physical Resources |
| 2: Implement Effective Planning Processes | 9: Develop Plan for Technology Systems |
| 3: Assess Institutional Effectiveness | 10: Improve Financial Planning |
| 4: Identify Student Learning Outcomes | 11: Provide Timely Financial Reporting |
| 5: Improve Student Support Services | 12: Define Leadership, Governance Roles |
| 6: Link Outcomes to Faculty Evaluations | 13: Improve Governance Structures |
| 7: Assess Adequacy of Staffing Levels | 14: Boost Board Development |

Note the similarity with some of the recommendations that FRC must address in our March 2013 report. While the details and depth of the issues are different between the two institutions, there is a striking comment noted in the *CC Week* report that is pertinent to FRC. CCSF has long identified their own deficiencies in funding, operations, and leadership. However, the ACCJC report noted that while CCSF has identified these issues, they have not developed plans or processes to address the deficiencies. The commission report praised CCSF “for its student-centered approach and commitment to diversity, but also rebuked the college for poor fiscal stewardship, a lack of adequate student tracking and program review and a glacial style of democratic governance.” In my opinion, the accreditation process can be interpreted simply as: (a) define what you want to be as a college, (b) identify measures to determine excellence and outcomes related to the identified mission, (c) measure the actual outcomes, (d) identify the areas that need improvement based upon the data analysis, (e) make appropriate improvements, and (f) repeat the measurement to determine if actual improvements have been made. Of course this is a gross oversimplification of the process; nevertheless, it can be summed up in a quote by an ACCJC official during a recent accreditation training session: “Don’t be afraid to show your warts, but make sure that you have a plan to fix your warts.” There is a powerful quote which identifies the shortcomings from CCSF as reported in the August 6, 2012 *CC Week* article:

The commission report puts the challenge facing CCSF this way: “While CCSF recognizes in its institutional self-evaluation that ‘lack of adequate state support during recent years has led to annual budgets that do not provide adequate resources to meet the needs of the college’s current enrollment,’ the college has not demonstrated the will to reexamine the scope of the college’s mission and supporting operations to decide the scope or level of programs and services that can be provided within the limits of its actual financial resources.

“The lack of self examination and failure to react to ongoing reduced funding has caused the institution to reach a financial breaking point.”

<http://www.ccweek.com/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=3176&zoneid=7>

These are the same budget challenges that face FRC and the services that we provide to students and the community. It is important to reiterate that the accreditation challenges faced by CCSF are not solely related to budget reductions. The resultant lack of appropriate planning seemed to determine CCSF's fate within the ACCJC report. This fact points to the overwhelming need to continue our strategic planning process, prudent budgeting principles, and FTES enrollment planning. What can FRC learn from CCSF? The object lesson is that the will and commitment to student success are not enough; we need to be vigilant in our inclusive planning and consensus building throughout all of FRC and recognize the requirements from ACCJC, Chancellor's Office, Federal Government, other regulatory agencies and legislative funding. Developing a working FRC Strategic Plan Update garners a new level of importance given the reduced funding in recent years.