

Contra Costa Campus Takes Step To Expand

By Michelle Morin
Staff Writer

Two committees are being formed to assess the highest education needs of the Cal State Hayward Contra Costa Campus, announced Peter Wilson, the dean of the campus, last week.

This is the first of several steps that will examine how and where CCC can expand its programs. Currently, the campus offers the final two years of the bachelor's degree curriculum and offers graduate and certificate programs.

The Strategic Planning Task Force will analyze past and current academic programs, regional and economic population studies, enrollment projections, and the relationship between CCC and CSU.

The Contra Costa Campus Facilities Master Plan Advisory Committee will examine enrollments and program projections and match them to a physical analysis of the site to develop plans for facilities and use of 380-acre site.

Both committees are targeting June 2005 for the completion of their studies.

Members of the committees include representatives from the CSU chancellor's office, CSRE, CCC, Contra Costa Community College District, the city of

Concord and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

"Through its proposed name change from California Hayward to Cal State Bay Bay, the university has committed itself to further developing the campus site and expanding the university's offering in Concord," Wilson said in a proposed statement.

Wilson told The Pioneer that if CCC had a day program, it could accommodate up to 1,200 students based on state classroom standards.

"Only 20 percent of our students attend day classes," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, a CSU branch cannot offer lower division classes if a community college offers the same curriculum.

After President Norma Kent formally announced the recommendation of the university name to the chancellor, Contra Costa County Supervisor Mark DeSantis proposed the development of a separate OSU campus in Contra Costa County.

Wilson said it could be a possibility that CCC could be a stand alone OSU but it would be at least 20 to 25 years.

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"There is an established pattern of branches becoming their own OSU," said Wilson.

"But I tell people if you focus on CCC being a separate OSU, you're missing the point."

Even though students and faculty at CCC like the idea of the campus expanding, not everyone agreed with the proposed name change for the university.

"I think it should stay Cal State Hayward instead of East Bay because it's been the name for several years, so I don't see why it should be changed now," said Chandra Williams, a junior majoring in human development.

Nicole Ross, who is earning a teaching credential, said, "I actually heard it on the news

a couple of weeks ago and that they were deciding on whether or not to change it and I was a little disappointed, even though we're out here on the CCC. I think that Cal State Hayward is a fine name."

Jim Riley, a lecturer in management finance, shared the same sentiments.

"I think it should stay Cal State Hayward because all the other state universities are named after the cities they're domiciled in," he said.

On the other hand, there were those who were indifferent to the proposed name change.

Antonio Marikini, working toward a teaching credential, said, "What's in a name? The name doesn't set the education standards. I mean, they could

call it Bob's College and it's fine; as long as it's accredited by the state and they have the same quality of people we have now, I'm all for it."

Also, most students and faculty liked the idea of CCC possibly becoming its own OSU entity.

This isn't the first time county supervisors have looked at CCC as a future OSU site for the county. It was first suggested back in 1996 by Sen. Tom Torlakson, who was a Contra Costa County supervisor at the time.