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The PIONEER

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FREE

\$7 Million Solar Energy Project Comes to CSUH Campus

Construction Begins This Summer

By James Barnes
Staff Writer

In a \$7.11 million move to cut energy costs, California State University Hayward plans to install one of the nation's largest photovoltaic electric systems this year.

The roofs of Meiklejohn Hall, the Music and Business building and the Physical Education Building - as well as an area on the ground - will be covered by over 110,000 square feet of solar panels, constituting perhaps the largest such system at any university in the world.

If the project moves forward, Pacific Gas and Electric will cover half of the cost, with the remaining \$3.55 million covered by a loan through the CSU Board of Trustees, according to Richard Metz, CSUH vice president of administration and business affairs.

"The project has been discussed for over a year," said Metz. "We wanted to get ahead of the increasing power rates. The 15-year loan will be paid through the savings."

PowerLight Solar Electric Systems will be contracted to perform the work, coordinated by the firm's Berkeley office. Metz said the company also would pay to replace the roof of the Music and Business Building.

Estrella Zulch, vice president of marketing and media relations for PowerLight Solar Electric Systems, confirmed that the company had agreed to pay for the replacement roof.

"This is a huge system, one of the biggest in the country," said Zulch. "We ran the numbers and realized we could pay for the roof. We really wanted to do this for Cal State Hayward."

Zulch said that the 1.05 megawatt system would have safety measures in place to protect the electric grid supplying the surrounding neighborhood from surges during power outages or spikes.

The system will generate roughly 1,450,000 kilowatt hours annually, producing enough electricity in the daytime to power more than 1,000 homes. Construction is expected to be completed on the campus buildings by next July.

"We're thrilled that solar power is being deployed at Cal State Hayward," said CSUH President Norma S. Rees. "With this solar electric installation, Cal State Hayward will have a cost-effective, reliable, non-polluting

See **Project**, page 3.



Rooftop Energy: The roofs of the Cal State Hayward gym and Music and Building (circular structure in background) as well as that of Meiklejohn Hall, soon will support solar power systems.

Photo/Stuart McGregor

Faculty Association Wants Openness On CSUH Campus Budget

By Amy Janel Nicholson
Staff Writer

"Make no mistake, this crisis is big. The crisis is real," Professor Tom McCoy told a Cal State Hayward audience last week at a forum on the California State University budget.

McCoy, Cal State Hayward chapter president of the California Faculty Association, was one of seven speakers at the CFA-sponsored meeting in the CSUH University Union.

The crisis McCoy referred to was Governor Gray Davis' proposal to cut CSU funding by more than \$260 million. In addition, Assembly Republicans recently announced they are considering making an additional \$200 million in cuts to the university budget.

McCoy expressed concern about what he characterized as the unwillingness of the CSUH administration to provide budgetary information.

The Pioneer recently made a Public Records Act request for budget information and was told there would be a 25 cent charge per page. McCoy said he had made a similar request on behalf of himself and the CFA and had not received a response.

Richard Metz, CSUH vice president of administration and business affairs, told The Pioneer, "I have no request from Tom McCoy for budgetary information. My budget office did receive a request from the CFA, but not from Tom."

"We referred that request to the chancellor's office and told the CFA that is what we were doing."

McCoy cited CSU Long Beach as one CSU campus with an administration that provided easy access to budget information.

He said it printed and distributed copies of its budget to faculty members and kept a copy of the budget on reserve in the university library.



Looks Like This: Professor Tom McCoy wonders why the campus budget is so hard to obtain.

Photo/Chihiro Koga

"How do we argue to administrators that they should not cut so many classes, that they should take funding from somewhere else and cut that before cutting classes?" asked McCoy. "We can't, if we don't first know where the money is. So we've got to put together a budget process of faculty and students to find out where the dollars are."

Jami Goldman, Associated Students board member, discussed the potential impact of budget cuts on CSUH students. According to Goldman, "From 1991 to 2003, there was a 102 percent increase in student fees. With the proposal, that will place us at an increase of 150 percent in the last 13 years."

See **Openness**, page 3.

Money Might Be Discovered To Save Classes, CFA Says

By Veronica Velasquez
Staff Writer

Julie Norton, chair of the Cal State Hayward Statistics Department, indicated at last week's forum on CSUH budget problems that there were accounts where surplus funds might be found.

Using a PowerPoint projection, she displayed charts showing the areas affected by budget cuts, the breakdown of budget allocations and a comparison of previous years.

Her charts seemed to show there were unrestricted residual funds to take up the slack where the budget had been slashed.

For example, Norton indicated the surplus funding from the 2001-2002 school year and other leftover funds that had accumulated over a period of years could be used to prevent the loss of classes.

Andrew Lyons, California Faculty Association research specialist, said that the CSU system potentially had \$50 million in profit from its continuing education programs. He added that revenue from student dorms and parking fees could be used to offset the general reductions in the budget.

"The campus budget is not the most accurate or complete picture of the university's finances," Lyons admonished. "You must look at the audited financial statement for a comprehensive list of all the various funds and trust accounts that it holds."

He noted that when Sonoma State University faced a 25 percent budget cut last December, students protested, and the president of the institution quickly announced that \$800,000 had been located.

The cuts were avoided, saving 200 classes in the process.

"The lesson from Sonoma is that we (students and faculty) can accomplish things that neither can accomplish on their own," said Professor Tom McCoy, president of the CSUH unit of the CFA.

"When else would you use a reserve fund than in an emergency? What else fits an emergency situation more than this?"

"It was informative," Janice Saura, an Industrial Psychology major, said of the meeting. "But

See **Money**, page 3.

Budget Cuts Mean No Free Rides for Disabled Students

By Wil Cabrera
Staff Writer

Cal State Hayward's courtesy van for disabled students has fallen victim to state budget cuts.

Redmond Appointed VP, Student Affairs

CSUH News Services

Cal State Hayward President Norma Rees announced this week the appointment of Dr. Sonja Parker Redmond as



Dr. Sonja Parker Redmond

The van, operated by the Student Resource Disability Center, will be unavailable this summer.

In an e-mail sent to students who use the service, SDRC Director Mary Cheng

wrote, "We have found it necessary to discontinue this courtesy service effective June 16."

SDRC's Janet Brockmann said the university was not required to provide the service because it was not mandated under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The administration has requested that each department's 2003-04 budget reflect a 10 percent reduction from the prior academic year.

Cheng could not say how much eliminating the wheelchair-accessible courtesy van would save: "It's hard to quantify." She explained that there are individuals who staff this service and that reducing "non-essential" staff will enable the department to keep office personnel.

According to Cheng, there are only five students who have signed up for this service.

Students with disabilities are being advised to take advantage of advance registration and allow sufficient travel time between classes.

A concern of students who use the SDRC shuttle service is that the allotted time between classes is not sufficient and that scheduling classes with

vice president of student affairs. Redmond has held the job on an interim basis since January of 2002.

"Dr. Redmond brings a wealth of higher education experience to the position," said Rees. "She began her career at the University of Houston and has served the Cal State Hayward community in various capacities as interim vice president for student affairs, executive assistant to the president, assistant to the president for diversity and equal opportunity, and professor of sociology and social services."

Rees noted that Redmond graduated magna cum laude from Tuskegee University, holds a master of social work degree from the University of Michigan and received her doctorate in public health from the University of Texas.

Redmond is an American Council on Education fellow and a Fulbright fellow, having taught and conducted research in the Middle East.

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Cinco de Mayo



Nice Hats: Authentic Aztec dancers, Xipetotec, perform for CSUH Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Photo/Stuart McGregor