

First Monday Report

Focus on
Commencement:
What day, what time,
and what activities?

Issue 21, May 5, 2014



Upcoming Events:

- | | |
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| May 2-11 | LAPC Theatre:
<i>Independence</i>
Performing Arts Complex |
| May 26 | Memorial Day
Campus Closed |
| May 28 | Athletics Hall of Fame
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m.
Dinner – 6:00 p.m.
Induction ceremony –
7:00 p.m.
Woodland Hills Country
Club |

Commencement 2014

As many of you are aware, the date for commencement in 2014 was planned for Wednesday, June 11. Recently, the event was rescheduled to Tuesday, June 10. It was changed this year because the Wednesday date conflicted with a scheduled Board of Trustees meeting. If we had not rescheduled our commencement activities, there would have been no representatives from the Board of Trustees or the Chancellor's executive staff available to attend the event. Since the Trustees and the Chancellor's staff are committed to taking part in our ceremony, we concluded it would have been unfair, and likely unacceptable, to retain our Wednesday schedule for this year.

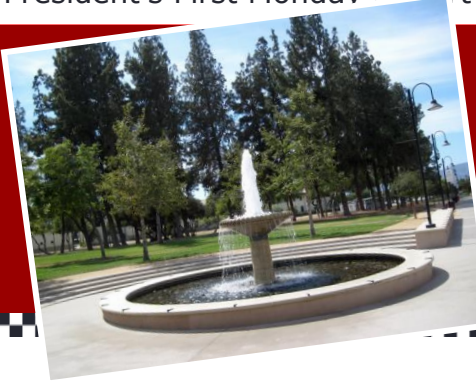
Annually, the Trustees set dates for their meetings in April or May. In June 2013, there was a Board meeting scheduled for the same date as our commencement;

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New Dean of Institutional Effectiveness: Oleg Bespalov

I am happy to introduce to you Oleg Bespalov, the newest member of the Pierce family. Most recently, Oleg was the Associate Vice President for Institutional Research and Assessment at Patten University, and before then served in various research roles at the SAN JOSE - Evergreen Community College District, Bridgepoint Education, Temple University, Princeton University, and ETS. Oleg is passionate about collaborating with faculty and staff on research and planning, and is excited to be a part of the Pierce community for years to come. You may reach Oleg at (818) 710-4292 and bespalo@piercecollege.edu.



Planning Ahead

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to review their calendar and schedule our commencement events accordingly. Since the conflict last year was with a first Wednesday of the month commencement, I was not concerned because our commencement this year occurs on the second week in June. Apparently, when the Board moved their scheduled meeting to the second Wednesday in June 2013, they decided to leave it on the second Wednesday in 2014; thus, the conflict occurred again.

For several years, the College has celebrated this important annual event on the Wednesday after final exams conclude. Since Board meetings are usually scheduled for Wednesdays, we could continue to have conflicts if we choose to plan commencement for that day of the week. Annually, the Board notices and approves a schedule of its meetings in April or May, so there is sufficient notice of the Board meeting dates for us to plan our commencement ceremony each year. In fact, the meeting schedule for July

2014 through July 2015 was presented for information at their meeting on April 23, 2014, which shows the date of the first meeting in June 2015 scheduled for Wednesday, June 10.

The current conflict and the need to change our date this year presents the College community with an opportunity to review and discuss the planning of this annual event. There are a number of factors to consider. Below are a few of the issues to be discussed in our various governance meetings:

1. On which day of the week should the event be scheduled?
2. What is the impact of scheduling it for the Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday after final exams conclude?
3. If it is scheduled for Wednesday, what will we do in years when there is a conflict with the Board of Trustees meeting?
4. Should we hold the ceremony on a weekend day, a Saturday or Sunday?

5. Should we continue to hold the ceremony at 6:00 p.m. or should we think about holding a morning ceremony at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m.?
6. Is the current schedule that combines the Awards Brunch, Faculty Gala, and Commencement all on the same day too long, or is it effective as it is currently scheduled?
7. If we move the ceremony to the morning, when will the Awards Brunch be held?
8. When should the College hold the Faculty Gala if it is not scheduled for the same day as commencement?
9. What are the possible impacts and costs associated with making a change to the multiple events currently scheduled for graduation day?

I look forward to participating in the discussion of these and any other issues related to planning our annual commencement event. I also look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 as we celebrate the achievements of our students during this year's activities.