

Finding Solutions in Fiscal

Much of the heavy lifting to address External Evaluation Team concerns has come in the Business and Financial Affairs division. In this issue, we look at what has been done to address the Total Cost of Ownership for current and new buildings and update policies in that division.

Evaluating Repairs Needed throughout the College

Southwestern College has been planning for Total Cost of Ownership long before it was mentioned in the exit interview by the External Evaluation Team. When the college commissioned a new Facilities Master Plan in 2012, we requested an entire chapter be dedicated to the costs of maintaining new and existing structures across the district.

Action Plan

To further refine the Total Cost of Ownership as Proposition R facilities begin taking shape, the Proposition R management team commissioned a study by Pack & Associates in April, 2015. The consultants conducted surveys of 56 buildings at the Chula Vista campus, three Higher Education Centers and the Crown Cove Aquatic Center during July and August. The physical surveys were of HVAC and electrical systems, plumbing, floor coverings, painting, roofing and other structural systems. The survey team also developed a report identifying capital repair requirements that should be completed over the next five years, along with an estimated budget.

The survey team found a total of 593 deficiencies in 55 of the 56 buildings, with 209 roofing repairs being the largest deficiency. Other large deficiencies were in HVAC and painting/finish. The estimated cost in 2015 dollars was estimated to be nearly \$12 million.

Armed with this information, the facilities division has begun including equipment and personnel in their Program Reviews to begin addressing deficiencies. There will be ongoing discussions to determine funding sources to address the deficiencies identified in the report.

District officials informed the External Evaluation Team that the report had been commissioned before their visit and that we were awaiting the results. The final report was delivered to the college on Nov. 2—a month after the team left.

Chapter 6 Policies

The college has been working diligently to update policies across the district. The Governing Board Policy Committee recently moved to create a plan to review all policies every six years to reflect the former Accreditation schedule.

Action Plan

There are policies currently being updated in Chapters 3, 4, 6 and 7, with Chapter 6 (Business and Financial Affairs) having the largest number of policies in need of updates. The directors in the Business and Financial Affairs division have updated 27 of the 32 policies in need of update. The policies are in the process of review, mostly through the Planning and Budget Committee. ♦

This is the last Accreditation in Action for the semester. We will resume the e-newsletter in January.