

COMETS STIR UP A RACKET

Top tennis duo leads team to victories.
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4,500 STUDENTS COULD LOSE BOG

Some students could potentially lose their waiver as soon as Fall 2016.

MICHELLE WILKINSON
THE TELESCOPE

There are currently 4,500 Palomar students on probation who could potentially lose their Board of Governors fee waiver in the Fall 2016 semester.

In total, there are 7,500 students using the BOG, which waives enrollment fees, who must meet the academic and progress standards in order to keep it. This includes maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and completing 50 percent of their units.

If students fail to meet these standards, they are put on academic or progress probation. If students are on either academic or progress probation two semesters in a row, they may lose their eligibility.

This means any student who was on academic or progress probation for Fall 2015 and is put on either probation for Spring 2016 may lose their eligibility for Fall 2016. But there is an alternative.

The total number of those who could potentially lose their BOG does not include the students who may be losing their waiver due to other circumstances.

Saleem Bodden, Palomar digital broadcasting student, may be losing his BOG Waiver for Fall 2016 due to a family income change. "It sucks because now I have less motivation to go to school," Bodden said. Bodden, like many students, cannot afford to pay for school on his own.

For those that have special circumstances that lead to their probation, such as verified accidents or illnesses, they can appeal the probation. If they do win the appeal, they can get one more semester to try.

It is possible for those who lose their eligibility to get it back by getting off probation.

Lorenzo Zapata, an art student, said he feels that if he ever lost his BOG Waiver it would "put a big damper on his school." He stated that it would add more stress and responsibilities to his life since he would have to find a way to stay enrolled.

Zapata notes that it would not be very difficult to meet the criteria to keep the BOG Waiver, but understands how some circumstances would make it possible.

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Gray = total student population of Palomar in Fall 2015, 24,464.
Gold = estimated number of students who received the BOG waiver in Fall 2015, around 7,500.
Maroon = estimated number of students who could potentially lose the BOG waiver, around 4,500.
Data compiled from the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Graph by Mike Peterson / The Telescope

Board settles on committee makeup

JOEL VAUGHN
THE TELESCOPE

After one failed search and a few months of requested proposals for consulting firms, Palomar's Governing Board has settled on a flexible timeline and committee makeup for the presidential search.

The Board convened on March 15 to workshop and approve the plan and process for searching for Palomar's next president. Judy Walters, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) consultant, lead the board through the proposed and confirmed timeline and search committee.

Under the proposed timeline for the search the board will elect a president in June who would start in August.

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Search Committee Makeup

Board Member:
Nancy Chadwick

Faculty:
Travis Ritt
Bill Jahnel
April Cunningham
Greg Larson
Colleen Bixler
Mark Bealo
Shannon Lienhart
Teresa Laughlin

Classified Staff:
Shanon Dreyer
Dan Dryden
Jane Stiles
Carmelino Cruz
Heather Murray

Administrators:
Ron Perez
Ruth Barnaba
Shawna Cohen

Community Member:
Terry Maher

Student:
David Aguilar

Palomar flirts with fines for smokers

RODNEY FIGUEROA
THE TELESCOPE

It's no secret that Palomar College has a campus smoking issue despite the 'smoke-free campus' placards placed throughout the college.

A new proposal seeks to increase the campus's authority to further enforce the campus smoking policy, potentially levying fines against violators instead of verbal warnings.

While some students say that Palomar should not include vaping in its policy -- and others want to bring back designated smoking areas -- officials say they stand behind the proposed expanded smoking ban and its fines.

Palomar Community College District Procedure 'AP 3570' is looking at receiving some major changes that impact the college's ability to in-

voke stronger monetary reprimands against students caught violating smoking policy.

It also seeks to officially add vaping and e-cigarette usage to the policy, though enforcement of e-cigs has been in place since December 2015.

The following suggestions appear on the proposal:

"The first violation will result in a warning with no fine; the fine for a second violation shall be \$50, \$75 for a third violation, and \$100 for fourth and subsequent violations.' Language added to the document also formally adds the term 'vaping' to the policy.

Fines issued would be distributed at a rate of 70 percent to the Campus Police for enforcement activities, with the additional 30 percent being transferred to the Health Services to provide material support for smok-

ing cessation treatment options. Though the fines can be appealed, some students are less than thrilled about the proposals.

The Telescope conducted interviews at the smoker's pit, where staff also took notice of smokers wearing Palomar Campus Police polo shirts at the time of the interviews.

"First of all its messed up, especially for vapers, because secondhand vape can't even be affected (sic) ... It's a fraction of the percent you actually feel, people shouldn't be pissed about vaping, it's not a big deal," said a student who declined to give his name but he said he only vaped on campus

and only smoked cigarettes socially.

Smoking, for some, seems more like a rights issue and a way to keep daily stresses and other personal issues at bay. A few students seemed unwilling to quit, but noted that Health Services being a benefactor to a fine proposal was insightful. Others admitted that they'd likely quit should the fines be issued and strongly enforced.

There was also some emphasis on the difficulty in quitting, arguing that it's incredibly difficult to quit, and that offering designated smoking areas might be a better measure than further enforcement and fines.

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