Trustees urge campuses to learn about CETI

The CSU Board of Trustees continues to urge faculty, staff, and students to become informed about the California Education Technology Initiative (CETI), a project that will have a widespread impact on all CSU campuses.

Everyone at Cal Poly needs to know what the project entails and what it will mean to the university, according to Jerry Hanley, vice provost, Information Technology Services.

Here is an overview:

What is CETI?

CETI is a proposed corporation joining the CSU through an auxiliary of four private companies: GTE, Fujitsu, Hughes Communications, and Microsoft.

What's it for?

CETI will build a "baseline" electronic communications infrastructure on every CSU campus—the wires, cables, satellite dishes, other connections—so people can communicate locally and with the rest of the world. The CSU's aim is to improve teaching and learning as well as administrative efficiency. Also included are continual upgrades, maintenance, and full user support.

Why do we need a corporation to do this?

The CSU doesn't have the $300 million to build this technology baseline, and it's unlikely the state will provide it. Funds will be raised by the corporation in the equity markets under guarantees from the four private firms.

What will Cal Poly get out of this?

Offices and appropriate classrooms now lacking communications links will have them installed, and locations currently connected with equipment below baseline quality will be upgraded. The campus will benefit from future enhancements of its system and from CETI-supplied maintenance and support.

What will the private companies get out of this?

The CSU's faculty, staff, and students make up a huge potential customer base. While no individual or unit will be required to buy products and services from CETI, the partners should be able to bundle products at mass-marketing prices to make them attractive. Also, the partners' presence on CSU campuses may give them leverage to sell goods and services to education, government, business, and private markets in the state.

What other points should faculty, staff, and students know?

• The initial agreement forming CETI will be signed Jan. 27. A second agreement outlining specific campus technology goals will be signed in late spring, and a third iteration dealing with intellectual properties will be signed later in the year. For several months now, Cal Poly and CSU officials have been encouraging everyone in the system to become informed and involved in this ongoing process. Hanley, one of several Cal Poly faculty and administrators serving on central committees connected with CETI, is this campus's primary contact.

• A CSU committee studied almost 100 companies last spring before 14 of the world's largest high-tech firms were invited to submit business plans to show how the CSU could create its baseline technology infrastructure. Three plans were returned, and following systemwide consultation that included university presidents, the CETI proposal was selected.

• CSU staff will be retained by the CSU; collective bargaining agreements remain intact.

• The CSU will have a majority role in the corporation's governance.

• Faculty retain all rights regarding curriculums, course content, and course delivery.

• Unique campus needs will be met.

• CETI may give faculty opportunities beyond what are now available to produce courseware and other intellectual properties that might be marketed by the corporation, officials said. The faculty member will retain full rights.

The CSU enters into an agreement through its

(Continued on page 2)
Judy Collins to sign books, CDs at El Corral

Singer-songwriter Judy Collins is making a special appearance before her Dec. 9 concert to meet fans and sign copies of her latest compact discs and books from 3 to 4:30 pm at El Corral Bookstore. Collins will perform before a sold-out crowd at 8 pm that night in the Cohan Center’s Harman Hall. El Corral will have for sale her two new compact discs, a children’s book, “My Father,” illustrated by award-winning artist Jane Dyer, and a novel “Shameless.” Her CD “Forever” is a comprehensive career anthology highlighting Collins’ most beloved songs, and “Judy Collins: A Christmas at the Biltmore” is described as a “stunning keepsake” of her fifth annual Christmas tour. Famous for her signature soprano and folk songs, Collins is a trained classical pianist and proficient guitarist who has been performing for 50 years. For more information, call Margaret Gardner at El Corral at ext. 6-5328.

El Corral to hold open house Dec. 4

El Corral Bookstore has a new look and is going to “show it off at a grand reopening celebration with door prizes, gift certificates from each of the store’s departments, music, and refreshments from 11 am to 1 pm, Thursday, Dec. 4. Provost Paul Zingg, Executive Assistant to the President Daniel Howard-Greene, and Foundation Director Al Carpenter will deliver remarks. KSBY-TV will broadcast the event live from the UU Plaza. During the summer, El Corral was gutted, remodeled, and fitted with new fixtures, flooring and lighting. A new, more efficient checkout system is designed to reduce the wait during “rush” times from 46 minutes to nine. For more information, call Frank Cawley, bookstore director, at ext. 6-1161.

Solicitation of vacation, sick leave

Employees are being asked to donate sick leave and/or vacation credits for Laurie Quiram, administrative assistant in the Mechanical Engineering Department, who must take several weeks off from work because of a medical disability. Donations of sick leave or vacation credits will help her to remain in full pay status during her absence. Anyone interested in donating leave may contact solicitation coordinator Dee Dee King in the Mechanical Engineering Department at ext. 6-1334 or dking@calpoly.edu for the Catastrophic Donation form. Eligible state employees may donate up to 16 hours total of sick leave or vacation credits per fiscal year in increments of one hour or more.

Position vacancies

Vacancy information and applications for the following positions are available from the appropriate Human Resources office. Vacancy information can also be accessed from the Cal Poly home page on the World Wide Web (address: www.calpoly.edu; click on “General Information”). AA/EO STATE (Adm. 110, ext. 6-2236 or job line at ext. 6-2966). Official application forms must be received by 4 pm on the closing date or be postmarked by the closing date. (No faxes.)

CLOSING DATE: December 17
#87067: Accounting Technician III, Fiscal Services-Student Accounts (Unit 7)*, $2,676-$3,213/mo.
#87071: Clerical Assistant II Pool, Student Life & Activities (Unit 7)*, $10.74-$12.66/hr. Several positions, temporary to 6/30/99 with possible extension.

*NOTE: For positions marked with an asterisk, qualified on-campus applicants currently in Bargaining Units 2, 3, 7, and 9 will be given first consideration.