

POISED FOR PLAYOFFS

After strong season, Comets look for defensive might to help postseason run **Page 8.**



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DO YOU FEEL SAFE?

INCIDENT BRINGS CAMPUS SAFETY INTO QUESTION

CODY JENDRO

THE TELESCOPE

While the college's crime rate, in recent months, is lower in comparison to previous school years, one recent case of sexual battery has the subject of campus safety in question.

The sexual battery occurred on at 2:47 p.m. on Jan. 27 in the area of the Student Union Quad. The case was then reported to the campus police department at 3:26 p.m. on the same day. The case was closed with the arrest of the suspect.

The public campus safety log, which dates back from late December 2015, shows a variety of incidents that took place on both the San Marcos campus and the Escondido satellite campus.

The report detailed eight incidents of petty theft, one incident of grand theft, and one incident of stolen property between Dec. 23, 2015 and Feb. 22, 2016.

One of the petty theft incidents occurred on Feb. 10, 2016 and took place on the Escondido campus. The incident regarding stolen property occurred on Jan. 23, 2016 at the newly opened baseball field on the San Marcos campus. Both cases remain open for investigation.

The college Clery Report details incidents which have occurred since 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, the campus had 10 incidents of arson, three incidents of motor vehicle theft, two incidents of burglary, and two cases of aggravated assault.

In comparison to several other colleges, Palomar's crime rates vary in specific areas. In 2014, San Diego City College reported one sexual assault and three reports of dating violence. San Diego Mesa College also reported one sexual assault, two cases of domestic violence, one issue of dating violence, and four cases of stalking.

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To see more student opinions, visit the-telescope.com

Photo Illustration By Stephen Davis/The Telescope

Stuck in transition

JOEL VAUGHN

CODY JENDRO

THE TELESCOPE

Some faculty are concerned about the way Palomar officials are handling temporary employees until they find permanent replacements for those who took an early retirement last summer.

Interims hold temporary positions until full-time positions are made available. Currently, the college currently has 16 interim faculty members. Adherence to the policies and procedures of hiring these interims has been called into question by campus constituency groups.

Teresa Laughlin, faculty senate member and economics professor, explained the complication with taking on many of these interims was due to the early retirement program, which left many dean and administrative seats empty. For some of those seats, the administration had to usurp some of their hiring process to fill them.

"They're plugging holes and bypassing our process. Our process does take time, but it's deliberative because administrators are very important in terms of how the college is ran," Laughlin said.

Mike Popielski, interim vice president of Human Resources, attributed the loss of some of these processes to "the urgency" of filling positions after early retirement.

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Full-Time Temporary Faculty

One Psychology
Two Nursing
One CSIS
One Welding
One Cabinet Making

6
Positions

Interim Admin Positions

Superintendent/President
VP of Human Resources
VP of Instruction
Dean MHNS
Dean CTEE
Dean AMBCS
Director of Health Services
Director of FinAid/Scholarship/Vet Svcs.

8
Positions

Acting Admin Positions

VP Student Services
Dean Counseling

2
Positions

Board selects new hiring firm in search

MIKE PETERSON

THE TELESCOPE

Palomar College's Governing Board unanimously voted to choose from one of two firms to aid campus officials in the search for a new president / superintendent on Feb. 23.

The Board decided to go with The Association of Community College Trustees. The ACCT is a nonprofit group of governing boards. The ACCT also provides presidential and CEO search services to its members, according to the group's website.

Of the two firms interviewed

at the Board meeting, Board member Nancy Chadwick, viewed ACCT as "better informed and better planned" than the Education Leadership Search group, the other hiring firm interviewed.

ACCT's ability to draw a larger pool of candidates was also high among the Board's decision.

Chadwick said that the board wants the hiring firm to be able to "get a big net out there and bring us a lot of candidates."

"We want a strong pool and a pool that's diverse," she added.

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