

4-3-84 Cabrillo board goes along with calendar change ✓

By STEVE SHENDER

Sentinel Staff Writer

APTOS — "Trust us," appealed Cabrillo College faculty members to the college Governing Board Monday afternoon. And, by a narrow margin, college trustees did, voting 4-3 to approve a faculty-endorsed 1984-85 school calendar.

Under the newly adopted calendar, fall semester classes at Cabrillo will begin Aug. 29, with the first semester ending before the Christmas holidays. The second semester is slated to commence the third week in January and end May 29.

The new calendar also includes nine "flex days" — three in August prior to the first day of classes and six in January. Cabrillo instructors will not be required to teach those days, but will be paid to pursue college-related activities of their choice.

The calendar adopted by the board Monday supplants one adopted just a month ago, under which the first semester would not have ended until after New Years. That calendar, faculty members said Monday, would have posed serious problems for Cabrillo students attempting to transfer mid-year to the University of California and to state universities.

But the problems of mid-year transfer students were not the issue which loomed largest in the minds of board members, who indicated they were more concerned about whether college instructors could be trusted to use the flex days for serious academic pursuits instead of recreation.

John Petersen, faculty spokesman and college president, assured the board they could.

Faculty Senate President Ken Neary, who said the flex days were authorized under state law and would be "fully funded" by the state, told the board, "Flex activities by the faculty must be approved by the Governing Board and are subject to audit by the (state community colleges) chancellor's office.

"We are deeply disturbed by the attitude within our ranks that the chancellor's office can't be trusted to administer the program, or that faculty can't be trusted to fulfill their obligations, or that the (college) administration can't be trusted," Neary said.

He appealed to college trustees to "shed paranoia and take the initiative" in instituting "reforms."

"We can make these (flex) days useful

and beneficial to the institution," said history instructor Sandy Lydon. "The faculty is more than capable of meeting the accountability (requirements) of all the people that are watching," said Lydon, who suggested that flex days could be used for such purposes as campus-wide training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, computer training for staff members and student-recruitment drives in area high schools.

Petersen told board members Monday that, "There is a need for this professional development — some time thoughtfully devoted to developmental activity will be very much in our interest."

Urging board members to approve the calendar proposed by the faculty, Petersen said the "details" of how the flex days would be monitored could be worked out later.

Several board members remained unpersuaded by the succession of speeches urging approval of the faculty calendar. And the proposed flex days, they indicated, were their principal concern.

"I do not support the flex days in January," said Vera Hutchinson, who said she supported the earlier fall semester start to alleviate transfer students' problems.

Board member Wayne Williams, who voted with Hutchinson and Ted Foster in opposing the faculty proposal, said he could not "really support the flex days" either.

"Ken (Neary) says we have to trust them (instructors) to do alright," said Williams, "but we don't know what's going to happen on it."

Williams said faculty members should use their sabbatical leaves to "improve themselves."

George Couch, who joined board members Bridie Franich, Helen Palmer and John Boone in voting to approve the new calendar, was the faculty's strongest supporter on the Governing Board.

Couch suggested the board owed the faculty its trust on the flex day issue, in view of services rendered by instructors to the college in the past.

"There are faculty members who have taken on increased course loads cheerfully and in a positive manner, to help us crunch out as much ADA (average daily attendance) as we possibly can," said Couch. "They've done a tremendous job doing things that, if we dug deep down into the (education) code, we would find they did not have to do."