

Cabrillo aims for greater Latino representation

By DONNA KIMURA
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Boosting the Latino student enrollment to 20 percent and hiring more minority teachers are among the goals listed in Cabrillo College's ambitious proposal to help minority students.

The student equity plan, praised for the standards it sets, will be the focus of college discussions in the next few months.

Because Cabrillo leaders want the plan to be discussed further, they decided last week to skip a Dec. 30 deadline for submitting the report to the state chancellor's office.

"It's too important not to do a comprehensive job," said Governing Board Chairwoman Nancy Matlock.

At present, about 16 people — 8 percent of the 204-person faculty — are Latino.

Officials agreed more work is needed on the plan after faculty

members complained that they were not consulted.

T. Mike Walker, president of the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers, raised concerns about the plan becoming a mandate once it is adopted.

"We're going through a financial crisis," he said.

The college may have to lay off instructors next year, yet the plan calls for hiring more minority faculty, Walker told trustees.

"I'm glad a student equity plan has been presented to the board," he said this week. "Our problem is when there are mandates, and we can't fathom them happening."

Walker said he is a strong supporter of a student equity plan.

"My primary concern is this plan has not been presented to the Faculty Senate for review," he said.

Some of the goals appear unrealistic, agreed President John Hurd, citing that one goal calls for about

31 Latino teachers to be hired in three years.

"It has not had the level of faculty discussion it needs," he said.

As a result, the college since has received an extension on submitting it to the state, according to Manuel Osorio, dean of student services.

The college, he said, is looking at submitting it around March.

At a Governing Board meeting, Osorio said a variety of people participated in developing the plan.

Pedro Castillo, a UC Santa Cruz history professor and president of the Watsonville chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, praised the report for setting important goals.

If the college doesn't establish high expectations, the statistics will remain the same, he said.

"I thought the goals were really very good," he said. "On the faculty side, it sets a target by 1997 to have 20 percent of the faculty be

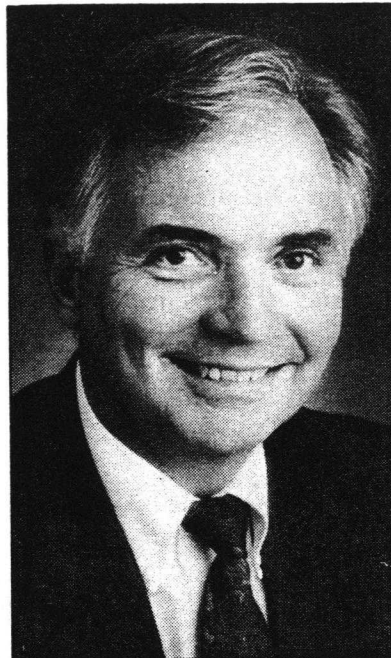
Latino. These are goals. They are not quotas. It is something to shoot for."

Under the plan, the college has a goal of increasing the Latino student population to 20 percent by 1996. It also seeks to maintain access for other minority and disabled students. This fall, Latinos made up about 16 percent of the college's 12,000 students.

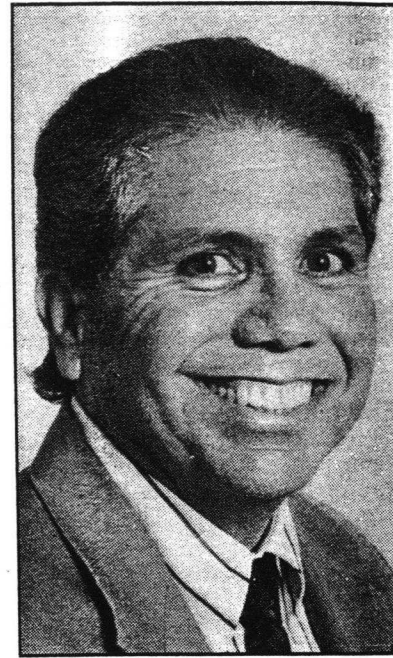
The plan seeks to increase the total number of degrees and certificates awarded by 5 percent each year. It also sets the goal of increasing the number of students who transfer to a university by 5 percent each fall.

Additionally, it calls for the college to aggressively recruit minority students as well as improve the diversity of the faculty to match that of the students and community.

The plan also seeks to have the college complete a "school climate survey" by August.



John Hurd



Pedro Castillo