

**President Ortiz welcomes and gives some opening remarks.**

*(Room Introductions)*

**Question 1: What does it mean to be a polytechnic university in the year 2008?**

**Speaker:** As far as going to Cal Poly or in general what a polytechnic university should be? I think it should be a school that offers things that a normal state university would not offer, unique majors and programs.

**Speaker:** Within those programs, like Hospitality we have the restaurant which is a really good example of the polytechnic principle in that we run the restaurant as students and that all of us have to go through that program to get our degree.

**Speaker:** I think that's a great example, but not every college has that so I personally can't. As a Marketing Management major I really couldn't tell you anything that I've done hands on. But, I know a lot of people in HRT and I think that's a wonderful aspect of their major. But, from my perspective I really couldn't tell you what we are as a polytechnic university.

**Question 2: Should we be different from the other CSUs?**

**Speaker:** I think absolutely. Particularly with regenerative studies in how it's a nice handshake with the architecture department. Getting that information in the same place and giving us opportunities to work with one another. Now we're coming up in architecture where we're going to have to make these very green, very sustainable buildings. It's not optional, this is how it's going to be and Cal Poly Pomona is kind of on the edge of that on the front lines in great part to regenerative studies. A lot of other universities they'll tie their architecture more with engineering or with art. I wish we had more of those handshakes, too, but I think having this different approach is really a strength.

**Question 3: Who should we compare ourselves to?**

**Speaker:** I don't think there is anything comparable around here to our institution. When you look at the other institutions around, even though we kind of are this ambiguous being here, you know without a concrete mission statement, like you said, with San Luis Obispo having the polytechnical as part of its mission statement. It seems that Cal Poly has something unique to offer in that area because any of the college within a 20 mile radius, nobody offers that. Then again, as a sociology major it amazes me that we have no connection to architecture or regenerative studies when that is something that is so on the forefront of the way society is run, but we don't hear about that.

**Speaker:** There is a slight connection. We have Dr. Denise Lawrence who does some teaching on the social aspects of architecture and the implications thereof. But, I agree it should be stronger particularly when we're dealing with thesis and dealing with social aspects that way. But, the thing with the architecture program is because it is an accredited program and there are, what is it Hector, there are over

18 check points of competence that you have to meet. NAAB was just here, that as it is with a five year undergraduate program, three and a quarter year graduate program, taking 18 units a quarter, it's like 10 pounds of crap in a 5 pound sack. There's a lot more we'd love to do in order to meet those requirements we're really strapped.

**Speaker:** I'm really saying on our end why we have no relationship to you guys whatever, we have no class relation, nothing being offered at our end that would even relate to you guys in regenerative studies or architecture, as our school being on one of those precipices of you know that area and how important that is, and we have no connection to it whatsoever and what do we do, we study society. We study how individuals interact with each other and yet there's no connection which absolutely amazes me when one the things this school is known for is the fact of, like I said the regenerative studies and architecture and engineering. I wasn't even aware we had these. I had actually been informed that architecture, that you had lost your accreditation. There were people who weren't going to come here because they thought you had lost your accreditation. That's also something that obviously needs to be gotten out and let people know. That's detrimental.

**Speaker:** What you just said and going back to what is a polytechnic school in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I'd say that part of that definition should be or could be the connections between colleges and departments the interdisciplinary nature that should be considered part of that polytechnic definition.

**Question 4:** **Should we strive to be nationally or regionally recognized?**

**Speaker:** I think there'd be more pride, sense of place. If you say, I go to Cal Poly, and people said, Oh! instead of, What's that?

**Speaker:** I'm from San Jose originally and I came to Cal Poly straight out of high school and being from San Jose most of my friends went to San Luis Obispo and when I said I was going to Cal Poly Pomona most of them didn't know where it was, what it was, if I was making it up. There's no pride.

**Speaker:** We would be second best (*in reference to being Cal Poly something and not Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*)

**Speaker:** I've grown up five minutes from here, my whole life. No offense, but Cal Poly Pomona was a joke. To be honest with you. I chose it because of the local. As most of the commuting students choose it, because of the accessibility. But, once you get here, one of the things that I see that really hampers us from really developing in the community is lack of athletic affiliation throughout the whole entire campus. You never see a sign for a baseball game; you never see a sign for a basketball game or a soccer game. Football, of course, we don't have. This whole area, the whole San Gabriel Valley when you talk about athletics you can relate closer to a football player who came out of APU (*Name*). You can relate closer to him than almost anything else in this whole area. That's really unfortunate when you have such strong athletics throughout all the high schools around here, the private schools, the public schools; and you never see or hear anything about it on

campus. And, why is that lacking, because that's something that helps create an identity. USC – what are they known for: their football team. UCLA right now: basketball. Unfortunately, I know there's money and everything that is entailed to that, but as somebody who's grown up in the area, you don't hear about it, there's no affiliation to it or anything else.

**Speaker:** Building off of what (*Name*) was saying, I think we do need to find an image and play it up. But, being a D2 school I don't think athletics should be the primary way to build that image. Even though, I do know that like you were saying, once you have pride in your teams you have more pride in the school. I think we offer things that we could be more proud of and use that same drive and sense of accomplishment to build our image.

**Speaker:** So, are you saying that this school is having a larger problem just getting people just to come and see the campus.

**Speaker:** The reason I chose to come here was because of the HRT program. It's very well rated in the United States and it's the least expensive of the top three, by far, compared to Cornell. So, we moved here, we came all the way from Alaska for me to finish my degree here. So, I think I've had a really different experience than what most of you are talking about. It was something I heard about, it was something that – I heard it was a good program, and it was something that I was willing to make that commitment with our family to do. If all of the programs have that kind of draw, that kind of reputation, I think that will create an image for the university as well.

**Speaker:** I had the same kind of experience. I'm from Texas and heard about Cal Poly Pomona, applied. What I found was that architecture was so impacted that they don't take out of state residents so I had to gain residence first.

**Question 5:** **What do you think we're known for in the community?**

**Speaker:** Horses and engineering. That's it, honestly.

**Speaker:** the College with the pointy building.

**Speaker:** But, when we do it, we do it with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

**Speaker:** One of the problems you'll run into in this area I would say within about a 10-15 mile radius is the bad connotation of Pomona attached it. I mean, you're not talking about Cal Poly Glendora; even Cal Poly Walnut would sound better than Cal Poly Pomona. Honestly, when you think about Pomona and you've grown up in this area you think Garey Avenue, you know. But, I also like that you guys were involved in part of the revitalization of the Arts Colony, correct. So, that was a huge statement for the school to make. That's saying, you know what even though the city may not have the greatest connotation, and the greatest interpretation by individuals around, we're going to help start changing that. Because like when we sat down, I used to throw concerts and Raves over on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and what it is today is nothing compared to what it was ten years ago, and that is a huge statement for

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the school and that is connected with it. But, Pomona is just...People don't understand the history of it. That's one of the issues, too.

**Speaker:** You've just got to spin it. Yeah, they're registered – we know where they are!

**Speaker:** The University is in a really unique position though because it does almost straddle three counties, Orange County, LA County and Inland area. Nobody wants to own us. It's an interesting spot that it has ended up being and it seems like that should be more of a strength, I mean the Orange County Register should be as interested in what is going on here as the Inland Empire.

**Speaker:** (*regarding the Alma Mater*) We have one?

**Speaker:** That's so funny because my friend asked me the other day, he said I know you have an Alma mater, but I don't know if we have one.

**Question 6:** **What experiences could we provide that would help students feel more connected to Cal Poly Pomona?**

**Speaker:** (*regarding being a commuter campus vs. residential campus*) But, it doesn't feel like live here because there aren't very many amenities within walking distance. If you want to go to a grocery store you have to get in your car and drive, if you're at the Village or at the dorms. You need a car to live here. I think that's the distance. Like the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where I had my undergrad...

**Speaker:** While there is a lot of beds here on campus, there are none for re-entry students, there's none for married students, there's none for – I'm a single parent with kids and my coming back to school I would argue is more expensive than most other people that are going to school. I gave up my income, I have kids to support, there's a lot that goes into that. I would love to see an on-campus community for older students and for re-entry students that family-friendly environment to it. The daycare center could be there, the re-entry center could be there, there could be a playground, and there could be a lot of really neat things there. I'd like to see that.

**Speaker:** And, you don't want it to be \$1100 a month for a one bedroom?

**Speaker:** The community is something really near and dear to my heart because I lived in the dorms; this is my second year living in the Village so I'm on campus all the time. I work here, I go to school here, and I live here. This is my life. So, there is a strong sense of apathy on the campus. A lot of people just don't care. And, it is really surprising to me; I didn't know that we had more beds than San Luis Obispo, Chico, and Sonoma. You would never know it living here. The F lot empties out, you can get first row parking by Friday afternoon. The Village is deserted by Thursday night.

**Speaker:** If you also do make some sort of tower like that it would nice if the shuttle service were more integrated with it because as it is I don't shop at the bookstore simply because I have to schlep anything I buy to some other parking lot or to some other shuttle stop. As I was leaving the library with a whole bunch of books earlier today I realized that the nearest shuttle stop was a good quarter mile away from the door.

**Speaker:** I second that. I think it is a good point. I'm an ASI Senator and it is just horrible. There's no parking lot by there and the shuttle doesn't stop there (at the BSC). And this new rec center might have a shuttle stop, but right now there isn't.

**Speaker:** It is nice that the breaks are now staggered so you're not just left high and dry over lunch time.

**Question 7:** **What are the greatest unfunded needs that you see in your colleges or departments?**

**Speaker:** Facilities.

**Speaker:** Faculty, teaching staff, people to provide classes for the needs of the students. Basically, increase the number of sections that are available.

**Speaker:** I think the other half of that is that there needs to be more advising staff. I ended up taking classes that I didn't need and I consider myself to be a really informed consumer. I was under the gun to get in and out and get back to earning an income. And I still ended up taking three classes I didn't need and I took an accounting class in Oregon that they refused to accept here and so I ended up having to stay a whole other quarter. In order to get financial aid you have to take 12 units so I know I'm sucking up a seat from somebody.

**Speaker:** (*regarding the degree audit on line*) and, that's a good step, but still we have one advisor in HRT for 900 students. So, you're lucky if you get a Hi!

**Speaker:** We do have faculty advisors, but we have "advisor" advisor, who is the only one who can sign off on our plans and look at things and tell you Okay, you need to take this or you don't need to take that. And, she won't even do much of that because she doesn't have the time.

I think that would alleviate, though, some of the pressure in the classes. I know I was sitting in classes taking up seats from people that could have been in there.

**Speaker:** As a transfer student I didn't even speak with an advisor until last quarter and I'm graduating this summer. They really need to make an effort to start putting holds, even when I went to see my advisor it was pointless because she criticized me more than anything else. It was really unfortunate. When you get that sort of experience and you have advisors who basically look over your sheet – first off they get angry if you don't bring in piece of paper, then you start going over the classes and they go everything looks good and you walk away. Then you say I have eight classes left – could you have told me at least one of them that I could have been taking.

**Speaker:** Can I add something? One thing that I've heard from a lot of my cohorts in regenerative studies is they'd like to have full-time faculty in our program.

**Question 8:** **What do you see as the major needs outside of your department?**

**Speaker:** More administrative coherence. To elaborate, when I applied to Cal Poly I got my acceptance letter pretty much it took three days to get it back very late after other schools, so I was sitting on the fence for a little while. The financial aid, even

though I'd filled everything out, you're an undergrad and you don't know what do, was still late and several of the architecture grads had the same problem, like didn't get there financial aid until the end of the first quarter. Just things like that – getting random holds placed on your records without knowing about them, realizing oh, I have to go get some shots!, or oh, I have to take this really stupid writing exam when I took the GRE in environment. Just one headache after another, that's like a sucker punch every time.

**Speaker:** (*regarding Phantom Shopper program*) they don't know that they're coming.

**Speaker:** Because, when applying for residency, one of my classmates was actually driven to tears by the woman who was helping her.

**Speaker:** When I went down to relocate, because I was an out of state resident, I was told that I had screwed up and I hadn't gotten this, this and this and it was going to be a whole other year before I could ever possibly be considered to be a resident. So, somebody had to assist me in relocating because I had the documentation, it was the back-end of the documentation. It was a miserable experience, one of the less enjoyable things that have happened to me here.

**Speaker:** I have to say working for the CLASS team; it was stressed from the interview that students will always come first. You follow their question and if you can't answer it you take their information, you send them on their way and you get back to them as soon as you can. That's something that was really surprising to me because I've only worked there since Christmas and coming to this school for the past three years I've never experienced something like that. It's refreshing to work for an entity on campus that does believe that students come first, that they're here trying to do their best for them.

**Speaker:** We'd just like you to be proactive.

**Question 9:** **What attributes should define a Cal Poly Pomona graduate? When you leave here what do you want people to think defines you as a graduate?**

**Speaker:** Well, me as a sociology student, I would say research. One of the things that is stressed highly in the college of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences is you need to get to the bottom line of what the issue is. Whatever issues you're working on you need to figure out to dissect the information, gain the most out of it, and then relay it as you are supposed to. That's one thing at least about our college, research is key, and almost everybody I know is able to do that. So, very confident in our abilities would be the bottom line.

**Speaker:** I think competence. As an HRT major, hospitality management is not really a book learning kind of thing. It's really something you have to do to understand, and so I think through the restaurant, we just had the Master Sommelier, level one course – we all passed, yea! – Through things like that we show that our students and our graduates are competent in the field.

**Speaker:** Resourcefulness. If you don't know what the answer is, if you have a clue about where to go to start looking for it, so you have an idea of who would be an expert in

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this field, or where would I start looking for that and start asking questions to get the information I need. – Problem solving.

**Speaker:** I would say, work-ready. Like, in architecture, go to a firm and you're not only ready, but you may know more cutting edge new programs and how to use them.

**Speaker:** Ready to work – minimal on the job training. I'm very excited to start work knowing that I should be ready, that I'm not going there to start a training program. After 5 years in engineering I'm ready to move one and get some work done.

**Speaker:** I would say experience and competence. It's kind of surprising that as a marketing major it's not required to graduate with any work experience. I know HRT gives you a certain amount of hours. But, as a marketing student I had an internship, but I know a lot of students in their third and fourth years you have not had any really working experience.

**Question 10:** **What about giving back to your communities? Is that something that we try to get you engaged in?**

**Speaker:** Certain organizations do, I know. In my sorority... We volunteer at the Children's center, we sponsor philanthropy events on campus, throughout Pomona, and we've worked on Pomona Clean Up stuff.

**Speaker:** Yes, Greek Council is philanthropic...

**Speaker:** Besides what everybody has said I would add leadership skills and ability. In our program right now we're working on a presentation on strategies in different aspects that have to do with the President's Climate Commitment. I think that we're getting experience especially in the Climate change thing as leaders in knowing and thinking about it very holistically. Hopefully this holistic approach will help us in regenerative studies in whatever we go on to do. The fact that you signed the President's Climate Commitment has helped us.

**President Ortiz:** **Thanks and closing comments.**