Open forum to discuss changes

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OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Visual and performing arts students and faculty showed off their talents Wednesday at the Cabrillo College quad to raise awareness on new class repeatability regulations.

The “Day of Action,” organized by the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers, featured performances by Cheryl Anderson’s vocal ensemble “Il Dulce Suono,” Sue Brown’s violinists, a student jazz trio, improvisation, scenes from the Cabrillo Theatre Arts spring production “As You Like It,” and original poetry and song.

Approved by the Board of Governors of California Community Colleges in the summer of 2012 and went into effect fall 2013, the regulations prohibit a student from taking a class again after successfully completing it, except under certain circumstances.

Visual and performing arts, as well as the physical education program, is being hit hard by the new regulations, said Maya Bendottoff, executive director of the Federation of Teachers. Under the new regulations, students have only four enrollments in any given group of courses that are related in content, known as a content-related family.

For example, in the family of “Theater Production and Performance,” a student may repeat a class but is limited to four courses in the family.

Also, students can now only complete the course for the student newspaper, The Cabrillo Voice, once.

“We’re mostly trying to get the word out and be sure our community is aware of this change,” she said.

The regulations don’t affect those students who fail a class. Students can repeat a class up to three times if they fail it, Bendottoff said.

On Thursday, the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers will hold an open forum to inform the community on the new regulations.

Bendottoff, Carter Frost, Student Senate Vice President, Tobin Keller, Visual and Performing Arts Program Co-Chair, and Michael Mangin, Faculty Senate President and history instructor, will speak on how the regulations are affecting Cabrillo College students. Michelle Williams, executive director of the Santa Cruz County Arts Council, will discuss the cultural and economic impacts of Cabrillo on the art community in the county.

The forum will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Horticulture Building, room 5005, at Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Drive in Aptos.

For information, visit ccftcabrasillo.org/news/issues.