

## FEATURED LETTER

# OCC gives bogus reason for denying teacher tenure

Your Dec. 8 editorial, "OCC: Rethink tenure decision," was right on target.

However, the college is legally required to give a reason for denying tenure. That issue was decided by Judge Eugene D. Serpentelli in a case filed in Superior Court challenging a decision the college board of trustees voted on in December 2005.

In that month's board meeting, several faculty members were denied tenure. Like Maria Flynn, they were recommended for tenure through an exhaustive process over a five-year period involving students and many professionals.

The Faculty Association sued, and the college had to provide reasons. So they came up with "reasons."

We can be sure that Jon H. Larson, the college president, remembers. That is why he offered Maria Flynn a "reason."

But the reason isn't supposed to be arbitrary and capricious, either. No law, college policy or contract deals with commuting.

Many of the same trustees hired a previous college president, in office for 10 years, who commuted a long distance. Since the beginning, numerous employees at all levels have had long commutes.

How arbitrary and capricious to single someone out, apparently an outstanding professor, too. How detrimental to the welfare of the college.

It is the board of trustees that needs to rethink Larson's indefensible decision to deny tenure, without any evidence that her commute had ever affected Flynn's performance.

And in the future the board members, like the rubber-stamp trustees at Brookdale Community College, need to think for themselves. They need to give direction, not take directions from Larson.

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