

FINANCES: Tuition increase possible

Continued from FINANCES, Page 1

What we have previously recorded less than what we imagined," Wilton said. "and that spells trouble for our budget."

According to Joanne Truesdell, president of the college, a tuition increase is just what is needed.

As of now, we are \$14 below any college (per credit hour)," Truesdell said. "We may be lacking resources that students need."

Although it is only a mere thought at this point, tuition may increase anywhere from \$2 to \$5 a year until the budget stabilizes. Each \$1 raised equals \$150,000 to the school's budget.

In an e-mail, Tim Lussier, student government president, voiced concerns about an increase.

"Obviously we are facing a large budget deficit," Lussier said. "I understand we need to come up with budget solutions. The solution that most concerns me is a tuition increase. A talk of tuition increase needs to be balanced with other budget solutions."

Many reasons were shared as to why a deficit may occur, but the drop in enrollment was named the biggest culprit. Clackamas lost 319 students in Term 2007, the biggest loss of all community colleges in Oregon.

Last year, enrollment took a dip," Lussier said. "We will feel that dip for the next three years. The majority of our general fund revenue is directly related to enrollment."

Oregon is one of many states that rely on state college funding based on enrollment numbers. Those statistics are used to determine how much federal a school receives is determined by enrollment.

Therefore, any declines in enrollment will influence funding for the future.

This year's drastic change in students will impact government funding, which makes up 76 percent of the overall budget.

The rest of the budget is reliant on the 19 percent received from tuition and the 5 percent from other sources. With a tuition increase of \$1 per credit already in effect for the next three years, another increase may send students packing.

Board member Chuck Clemens questioned the possibility of a rise in tuition, asking whether any preliminary thoughts had been made about an increase.

Where the money is going is also being considered, as expenditures are expected to rise slightly in the years to come. Currently, 80 percent of the budget goes to personnel services and staffing. The rest is used for debt recovery, materials and other expenses.

Recently, the full-time contract was reevaluated and added to the college's costs. With a part-time faculty contract still in debate, it may also affect the budget.

Hopes are being held on lowering cost and raising the incoming funds, but there is very little chance that this can be done without raising tuition. If the problem is not solved, Clackamas will be looking at a serious situation, with the possibility of not even being able to make payroll in 2010-2011.

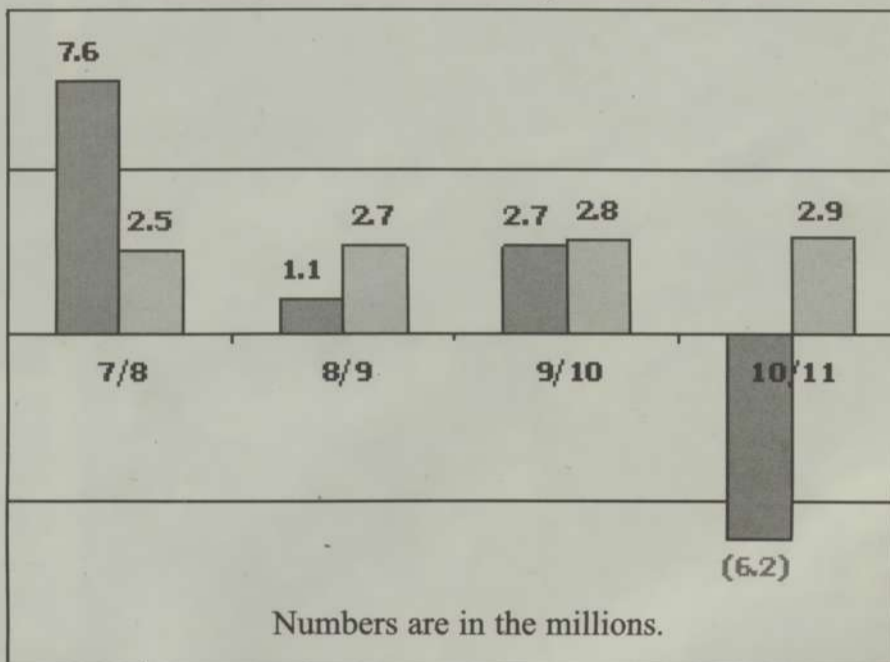
"I think things are going to tighten up," Wilton said, "and that's not sustainable."

Until the financial forecast is

certain, tuition and school budgeting will not change. However, students should stay aware of the possibility of a large tuition increase.

"We have not started the tuition debate with the community or the students," Truesdell said. "We want to be sure of the numbers."

General Fund Revenue and Expenditures by Year



Numbers are in the millions.

■ Ending Fund Balance
□ Minimum

Source: Courtney G. Wilton, Vice President of College Services

Gun policy not affected by judicial decision

As of Friday, Nov. 16, South Medford High School English teacher Shirley Katz can no longer carry her gun to school.

Jackson County Circuit Court Judge G. Arnold Philip has given his ruling. According to the Associated Press, Philip concluded that the Medford School District has the right to enforce its policy.

Tim Gerking, the school district's lawyer, welcomed the ruling, stating, "Allowing off to carry weapons to school buildings wouldn't enhance safety; it would only make it worse. We'd have a completely new risk of accidental injuries as a result of these weapons." Katz's lawyer plans

to appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court or appellate court.

Until then, the decision is localized to Jackson County, so Clackamas Community College's regulations cannot be affected.

Can the college expect to have its rules regarding firearms changed any time soon? Probably not; the verdict must go through the proper levels of the judicial branch before it can impact Clackamas.

The current regulation has been on the books since 2005, and it does not appear that will change.

- Compiled by Ben Caldwell

Holiday Party

Community Center

Dec. 6

Arts & crafts

Games & fun for the family

Club Craft Fair

Tuesday and Wednesday

Nov. 27 and 28

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bill Brod Community Center



Great American Smoke-Out Day is Nov. 28.

Put out those cigarettes for 24 hours.



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