

Budget cuts lead to open positions

Lydia E. Bashaw

News Editor

Experiencing a shortfall in funds, Clackamas was forced to look toward departments to cut their spending. During the next school year, five full-time faculty positions will be left open to help eliminate costs.

Vice President of Instructional Services Baldwin van der Bijl explained that the five positions left open in the business, engineering, English, human services and social science departments are part of the budgeting process.

The entry-level salaries for those positions range from \$45,821 to \$50,644, at minimum equaling at least \$229,105.

Some departments, like English, are losing their faculty position for several years. Jan Anderson, a full-time faculty member, retired in fall 2007.

"We are holding it (the position) open until 2010 because of budget reasons," said Trista Cornelius, English department chair. "Yet, we are not losing the position altogether; the salary will just go to the college."

With the loss of Anderson, her class load must go elsewhere, putting a heavier weight load on other parts of the department and cutting one class option for students.

"Almost all of her classes are distributed elsewhere," Cornelius said, "but there is one that no one really has the background to teach, and that is Arthurian Legends. She taught at least 12 classes a year. I know one year she took on an extra class when someone went on medical leave."

Social Sciences Department Chair Robert Keeler has only one school year to worry about. In an e-mail, Keeler discussed the transition from losing one instructor.

"Kristin Christophersen, our full-time sociologist is completing her doctorate and, earlier this year, decided to pursue her career elsewhere," he said. "For budgetary reasons, it was decided to hold the position open ... sociology is one of the core disciplines in the social sciences, and we anticipate forming a search committee and carrying out a hiring process during the 2008-2009 academic year, with the goal of having a full-time sociologist on board at the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year."

The engineering department will also be dealing with a loss, as Ed Landauer has retired. However, there is not a timeline set for the rehire, leaving three full-time instructors in the entire department.

"We have one position that is still open," said Chair Matt Laforce. "We have not put it out to hire yet. We want to change the program more towards environmental engineering. It does not exist yet. I want to recast that position. We need someone who can do all the engineering but focus the department on the environment."

With up to two years for Clackamas to get its budget issues solved, departments will be asked to keep costs low.

"I'm not sure how much more a department can cut," said student Louisa Gerard. "They are already taking our teachers and our choices. There is not much more a department can do."

IMS Degree: Training students to be thinkers and creators

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"The most important thing is to train people to be thinkers," she said, adding. "The people we are putting out in the real world are well-rounded."

What to do after the two years spent in the program is a two-fold path. In some areas, students will be ready to enter a career field immediately, having a two-year certificate of completion. Others will be able to use an associate degree to transfer to a four-year university, with Portland State University being the most direct transfer, according to Mach.

The degree is the brainchild of Mach and Mingo, who saw a need to connect certain areas of study, something they accomplished with their first collaboration, the course Screenwriting and Production.

After forming the class, both knew it would be necessary to expand Clackamas' mixed media departments, and they have been working with other teachers and faculty to do so since.

"This is the future, in a way," Mach said. "It's exciting and scary at the same time. It's evolving." Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Bill Briare agrees with Mach.

"People want content," Briare said.

Designing content is what IMS is all about — students can learn everything from how to build Web site graphics and set up Internet broadcasts to how to become projection assistants and edit film. Job opportunities and internships are also arranged.

The next goal for the degree — which has expanded to include many more teachers and staff than Mingo and Mach — is more centralization.

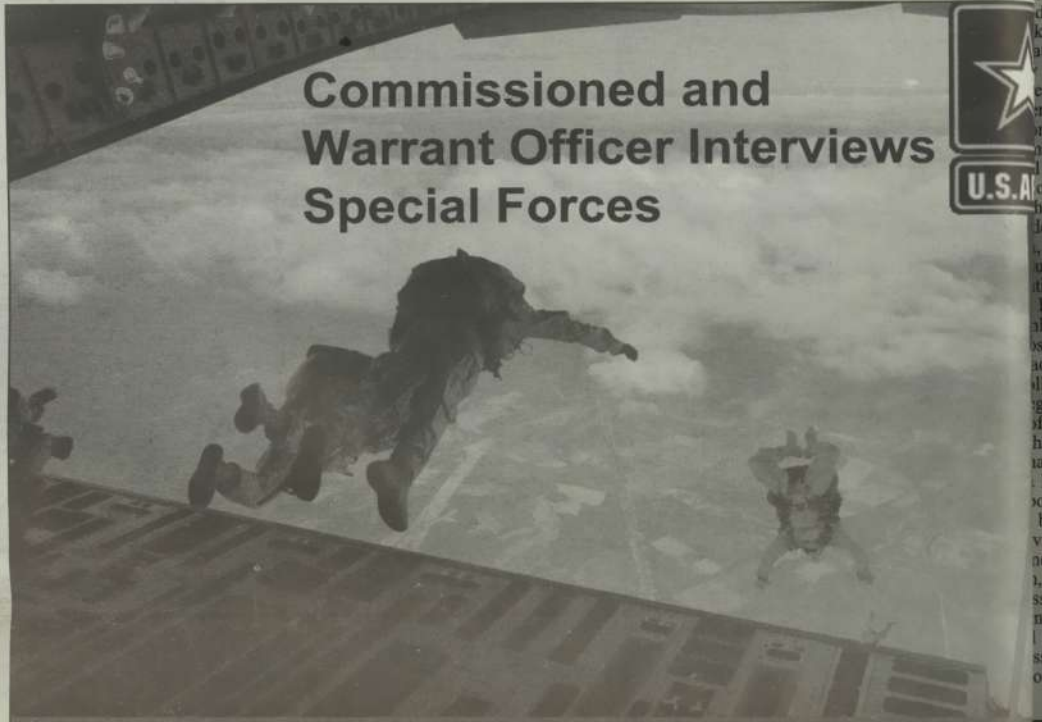
"I think what we need is a budget," Mingo said. "Right now, things are moving around the college."

Eventually, Mingo and others involved in the program hope for it to expand into its own department, but before this can happen, it must have state approval.

During the approval process, the college will examine the degree's validity and job opportunities for IMS students after graduation.

Along with the state's consent, other departments are permitted to protest the institution of the degree. None of this, however, worries Mach. Most of "that stuff usually gets ironed out." "With luck, it will get approved through."

The estimated date for the degree to be approved will be the 2009-2010 academic year.



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