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The Clackamas Print

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More cuts create budget canyon

Lydia Emily Bashaw
 Editor in Chief

With the budget balancing on a knife's edge, the college is forced to strike a delicate harmony between its mission to students, and how to solve the institution's financial woes.

The college is facing an \$11.3 million shortfall for the 2009-2011 school years due to shortfalls on the state level. During fall term, Clackamas lost \$416,000, which had already been budgeted for. The school is anticipating another \$1.6 million shortfall in the coming months, and is racing against time to close the ever-widening gap.

The deficit is caused by a decrease in funding from the state. With the state economy in a recession, and unemployment rising, the Oregon government was asked to make statewide cuts in services. This change equaled out to a vast amount of funding being reduced to the community college level. More than 45 percent of revenue into the college's general fund comes from state appropriations, with another 32 percent from local property taxes.

"The problem is the economy is rapidly slowing as a recession," said Vice President of College Services Courtney Johnson, "and our budget is really tied to the state's budget and the state's budget

is tied to the economy."
 The college's two-year budget is around \$88 million and with the \$11.3 million dollar loss, this would equal an

approximate 13 percent decrease in financial support. In order to deal with the issue, the college has asked staff and students to brainstorm and sacrifice.

The current year shortfall

The college administration was notified in December that the Oregon budget forecast was dismal. To compensate for the losses, the college instituted across the board cuts that affected Clackamas' state allocations. The news was that the college had lost \$416,000 in funding from the state. The college had counted on that money to cover expenditures.

In President Joanne Truesdell's January budget message sent to faculty via e-mail, she set out the plan for the months to come.

"CCC is going through an inclusive and transparent process to identify cost-saving and revenue-generating tactics," wrote Truesdell. "Again, I need your involvement."

The college quickly sprung into action. Faculty and staff positions were held open to save money on the department level. All departments were asked to return a percent-

age of their fee fund balances, equating to \$361,473.

The state is due to update the budget again this Friday. The college predicts that it will lose more funding for this year, around \$1.6 million.

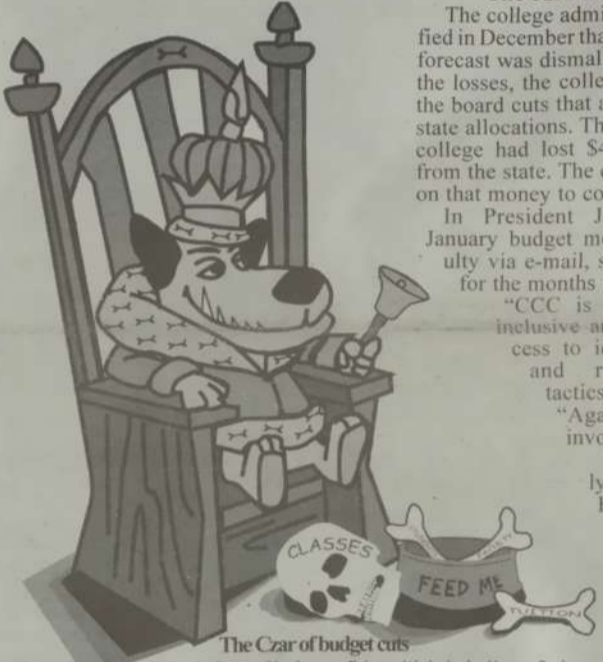
At the Wednesday, Feb. 11 Board of Education meeting, a tuition increase of \$5 per credit was unanimously passed to help alleviate some of the financial pressures. A future increase of \$5 per credit starting summer term was also introduced, and will be voted on at the March 11 meeting. (See story, "Tuition increasing... again.")

Discussion has begun on where to make sacrifices and what should remain in order to fulfill the school's mission without the funding to remain as Clackamas is today.

The financial future of Clackamas

The governor's proposed budget for 2009-2011 anticipates a 3 percent cutback in state support for community colleges. Clackamas had originally budgeted on a forecasted increase in funding. However, Clackamas is around 8.3 percent of the community college funding pie. The reduction could equal a loss of \$11.3 million for the college over two years, deflating the general fund's revenue.

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The Czar of budget cuts

Photo illustration by Kayla Berge Clackamas Print with help by Hanna Barbera

Tuition increasing... again

Lydia Emily Bashaw
 Editor in Chief

Clackamas students are being asked to help fill the potential hole in the college's budget, by an emergency \$5 per credit tuition increase for the coming term. The motion was unanimously approved last Wednesday at the Board of Education meeting.

The decision came shortly after news that the Oregon Legislature would ask for funding on the community college level to be reduced this year. Clackamas could face another \$1.6 million shortfall when the state makes its announcement this Friday. The college has already lost \$416,000 to the budget deficits, the state level earlier this year.

"The tuition increase is substantial," said Carlotta Collette, Board of Education member, "and it will affect students but it's only one piece of the puzzle."

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Cultural classes' future being questioned

John Hurlburt
 News Editor

Beheadings are usually a bloody, painful, nausea-inducing mess and as the budget situation on campus continues to become dire, some faculty and students fear that with more cuts happening, the cultural head will be chopped off the college experience.

Downsizing is taking place all around Clackamas, forcing staff and faculty to critically analyze what are the most important aspects and what can be done without. The classes that are essential to obtain degrees will be kept without question, but elective classes will now be put under a microscope.

Bill Briare, dean of arts, humanities and social studies, summarizes the situation well.

"Budget cuts require us to look at our elective offerings," Briare explained. "Sometimes we have to circle the wagons and examine what's most important in our core offerings."

Elective classes with low enrollments are the first targets being put on the chopping block, a sensible choice when it comes to numbers, but English Instructor James Bryant-Trerise sees danger in this objective approach.

"When we get rid of certain classes, we basically become a ticket machine," Bryant-Trerise passionately explained. "The assumption that all we're here for is to help people make money is being intensified. That's a problem because our lives are about a hell of a lot more than making money."

Bryant-Trerise currently teaches Shakespearean lit, a class that faces jeopardy in the future due to its low enrollment numbers.

"College is about answering the question, 'what's the good life?'" Bryant-Trerise said. "We need to have classes like Shakespearean Literature because they have nothing to do with money."

Speech Instructor Alice Lewis, although sad

about some of the losses being made, can understand the other side.

"Our department has a budget and that budget is limited," Lewis said. "It would be nice to offer more (electives), but to some classes, we have an obligation."

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Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Instructor Dave Mills leads Clackamas' Concert Band. The future of some cultural classes, such as arts, literature and music have been brought into question recently due to cuts.