

# TUITION: cost chokes pockets

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With a massive percentage of the school's yearly budget in peril, the administration and staff have been working overtime to fill the deficit. Earlier this year, departments with balances in their fee fund accounts were asked to give half towards the college's general fund. The college collected \$361,473 from those funds.

There have also been other measures instituted to save money. Faculty and staff positions campus wide have been held open, food services at meetings has been reduced, out-of-state travel restricted and part-time employee use has been drastically decreased. However, the college still foresees an \$800,000 gap in the budget.

Tuition makes up about 21 percent of the general fund's revenue. With the \$5 per credit increase, the college would gain about \$250,000 in spring term alone, around 15 percent of the problem.

For students attending full-time, around 12 credits, the increase would be \$60 total.

There was no recommended increase in the general student fee. The financial aid department has prepared for the increase, continuing need based tuition waivers, repackaging of financial aid, and alternative fund-

ing for students, who may have trouble with the sudden rise in costs. But, there are no promises to students who will not be able to afford school.

Clackamas' tuition costs will stay in the middle of the pack for Oregon community colleges. However, there is word that other community colleges will also raise their costs to cover any shortfalls they receive in funding.

"What we are trying to do is make sure that if someone is having difficulty (with the increase), get to financial aid," said President Joanne Truesdell. "There is still a commitment to help everybody."

In the last ten years Clackamas' tuition has increased from \$36 per credit in 1999-2000 to \$62 for summer 2008-2009. Yet, enrollment has stayed fairly even over the years. Full-time equivalency enrollment has increased 9.8 percent in those years. This year's enrollment is up drastically with an increase in unemployment state wide.

"I think a lot of people can't get jobs, so they are coming back to school," said 40-year-old Karen Hughes. "When the economy gets tough, people look for other ways to survive. This tuition increase will have a hard effect on people who are already having a hard enough time mak-

ing it month to month."

This is the second increase of this school year, and there will be more to come. Students will be asked to help balance the budget more in the months to come. Another increase of \$5 is on the table starting this summer. That would put Clackamas' tuition at \$72 a credit. Chemeketa and Linn-Benton Community Colleges have already announced projected tuition increases of \$14 to \$18 per credit.

Students are welcome to share

their comments and ideas about the increase between now and March 11, when the Board of Education will make a decision on the next increase. Associated Student Government will be holding three breakout sessions with President Truesdell to discuss the budget issues with students. The first will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 2-3 p.m. in CC127. The second and third will be Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 2-3 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. in Fireside Lounge.

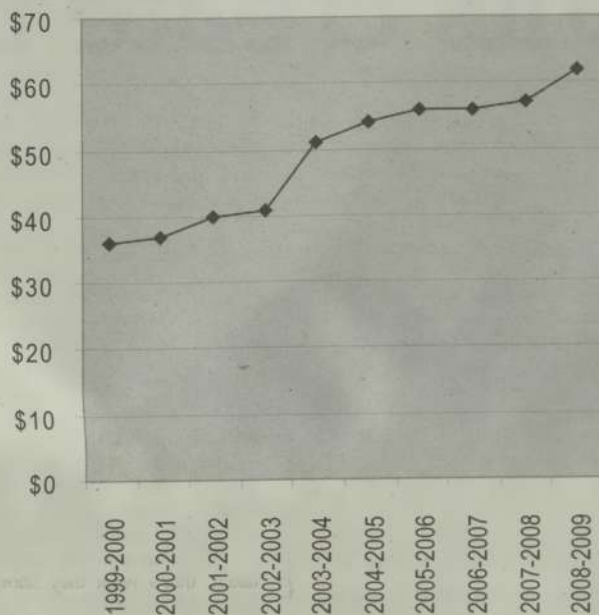


TRUESDELL

**"The tuition increase is substantial and it will affect students, but it's only one piece of the puzzle."**

Carlotta Collette  
Board of Education member

Tuition costs per credit from 1999 to 2009



Note: The average class from three to four credits. As an example a Writing 121 class is four credits.

# BUDGET: college faces \$11.3 million shortfall for 2009-10

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More than 86 percent of the general fund goes to personal services, or "people money" according to Wilton. "People money" refers to wages and

benefits. With such a shortfall, sacrifices will be made in staff and faculty.

The full-time faculty was asked Tuesday, Feb. 17, to forego their cost of living increase that was promised

in their 3-year contract. The increase is at least 3.5 percent for every person. There are 153 faculty positions at Clackamas and this motion would save the college \$920,000 over the two-year period. A faculty member on the bottom of the pay scale would lose around \$1,675 a year of his \$47,882 salary. The decision will be made via a vote by the faculty. The ballots are due on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

At "Pizza with the President," held by Associated Student Government on Monday, Feb. 16, Truesdell shared the college's focus when making changes for the college community. She said the core of Clackamas' mission was to provide lower division collegiate classes that prepared individuals to continue towards a baccalaureate degree. The mission also provides career technology education to train people for the high-wage jobs of the future, as well as skills development for those who wish to finish

their basic education. Work force development is also provided in the mission to help those who wish to retrain, after losing jobs or to continue in their field with updated knowledge. These fundamentals are what guide the college in their decision making process.

In December, college administration asked the staff and faculty to start sharing ideas on how to increase revenue and decrease expenditures. There are more than 150 proposals in the Feb. 9 draft of the Revenue and Cost Saving Suggestion list. Some ideas like increasing class seat loads and conserving energy are already in place. More outlandish ideas include opening a sports bar on campus to bring in money or starting a farmer's market using products grown in the horticulture center.

Truesdell said that the list would be thinned down in the next month, with a more detailed idea of where Clackamas is choosing to go. The administrative staff's rec-

ommended budget will be compared by March 20.

Students and staff will be the hardest hit when the decisions come in later this year. Questions regarding what will be cut overall have not been answered yet, by the administration, though suggestions for full programs and services have been made.

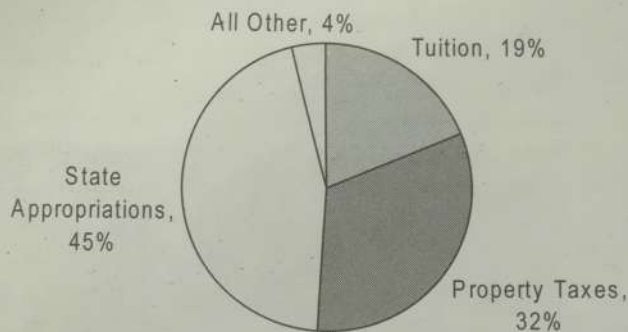
"There is some type of balance between how much the problem gets solved, revenue and how much through cost," said Wilton.

When asked what Clackamas would be doing in the fall, Truesdell said she won't fundamentally be different. We can't take the cost of cut and not be different.

Truesdell is set to have budget recommendations by April 3. Campus-wide discussion is occurring about the options.

"It's true that we can't offer what we offer, but we can offer it," said Truesdell. "It would require \$11 million more."

General Fund Revenue



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