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A farewell to former ASG member

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Budget solutions leave lasting losses

John Hurlburt

News Editor

There has been a specter looming throughout the halls of Clackamas over the past few months. A thought that has been hanging nearly everyone's mind but hasn't quite made it off the tip of peoples tongues because they were hoping to avoid it, until recently. Now the college administration's hands have been forced and downsizing has become a reality at Clackamas. The situation had already looked grim after the announcement the school was going to be more than \$400,000 dollars short for the current biennium of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. As the nation's economic condition continued to plunge deeper into the abyss of infamy, the college's budget forecast for next upcoming year became even darker than what was previously thought of as a gap of \$13.2 million left to fill.

The school was able to quickly fill the first \$416,000 gap with a Band-Aid solution big enough to keep the campus from bleeding.

College President of College Services Courtney Wilton and President of Instructional Services Elizabeth Lundy announced to campus staff and faculty on March 12 in an email how the budget situation had been fixed and who and what would be effected. "The combination of declining revenues and increased costs over the next two years - approximately \$13.2 million - that must be addressed." The e-mail stated, "As painful as these steps are, by being proactive and making budget adjustments now we stand a much better chance of weathering the recession without further large reductions."

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Controversy grows over campus gardens

Greg Stoltz

The Clackamas Print

The college has taken control of the campus community garden away from the Green Spaces Club, doubling fees, prohibiting the use of sprinklers and moving garden finances out of the club system.

School officials explained the changes to frustrated club members at a meeting April 2.

Bill Zuelke, dean of student services and workforce development, told a group of about 35 people gathered in Clairmont Hall that budget shortages and the need for better financial oversight contributed to the changes.

Starting this year, the annual fee for one garden plot is increasing from \$20 to \$40.

Explaining the impact of higher fees, Green Spaces Club President Kathy Von Striver said, "The people that call me are usually people who really need the gardens. There's a lot of elderly, a lot of disabled, a lot of low income people."

For them, Von Striver said, even \$20 is a lot of money.

The club wasn't opposed to a more modest fee increase. Von Striver, who was also manager of the community garden until the college removed her in March,

said the club had been discussing raising the plot fee to \$25 themselves.

"Even \$30 wouldn't hurt that much," she said.

Von Striver said she's had a lot of people call her and drop out of the garden after she told them about the cost increase.

To address the financial hardship, the Horticulture Club is offering a half-off scholarship. By filling out a short assistance application, any gardener can continue

to pay just \$20 for 2009. The discount applies to just one plot per family or group and is available this year only.

Zuelke acknowledged that every time the school has to raise any fee, someone gets disenfranchised. Nevertheless, he said that keeping the fee at \$20 is not an option.

"The college won't allow it to happen," he said.

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Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Nathan Wimer rototills a plot at Clackamas' community garden. Loss of services and increased fees have added to scrutiny regarding a change in management.