

Departments make due with cuts

With Clackamas' financial future uncertain, the college considers the possibility of making further cuts

By Erik Andersen
the Clackamas Print

With the economy being as low as it is, we all find ourselves paying more attention to our budget. Clackamas Community College is no exception. Clackamas has made many cuts across the board, some more significant than others. An example of one such cut can be found in the library. During the summer term of 2009, the library came up with the idea to reduce their hours from 7 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the week to 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. This didn't go into affect till the beginning of the spring term. Last year, due to the budget cuts, we had to lay off two people, a full-time employee and one part-time employee," said Terry Mackey, head of the library. "I was in favor of the idea, then after a discussion with the library staff, the library staff came to the decision. I don't think it's going to have a huge impact on the students." When looking at the budget of the departments in our school, it is noticeable that there are some

areas that get substantially more funds than others. Such areas include the business, science and math department which receive the most funding out of all the departments. This is due to the number of employees they have working in that area coming to a total of 59.71, not including part-time employees, and the demand in the department. Other high demand departments with higher number of employees include the arts, social sciences and humanities departments, Student Services, the technical career education department and Campus Services.

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Vice President of College Services

Vice President of College Services Courtney Wilton explained that all the departments have had to make some sacrifices and may have to make more in the future. "We made a lot of cuts last year," said Wilton. "Are there

more areas we can make cuts? I think so, if we have to." "We have cut the staffing in our support area and that's fine. We should be doing that in tough times. In the academic level, we've reduced a lot of sections. Can we do it some more? We can and we will have to if we get less money," Wilton added.

So when asked how the school looks financially for the future, Wilton said, "I'd say it's tenuous. It largely depends on how revenue comes in the future and that depends on the recovery of the economy, and it's also dependent upon what happens with the initiatives that are on the ballot in January. So there's a lot of uncertainty right now."

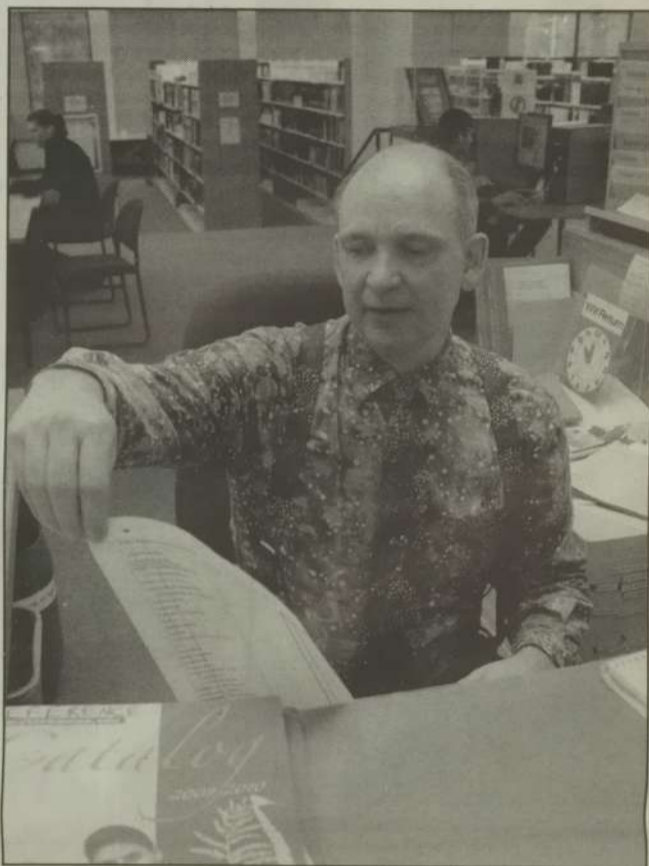
The initiatives Wilton spoke of are Measures 66 and 67. If passed, the measures would reduce our budget by 5 or 10 percent with 5 percent taking out close to \$2 million and 10 percent close to \$3.3 million from our already reduced budget due to the poor economy.

The way the state determines how much funding each college gets is based on their percentage increase in student population. The only flaw with this method is that they don't take into account the differences between rural and urban colleges. Where there are fewer colleges with a smaller student population in the rural districts, when they achieve say a 10 percent increase, the urban colleges that have a larger student population and more competition have to bring in a significant student increase to match that 10 percent of the rural colleges.

Out of all the funds that the school receives, the general fund would be most important to be look at in order to find out where the money comes from as well

as where it goes, explains Chris Robuck, the dean of business services. Robuck broke down a graph of our general funds and explained that 35 percent of our revenue is obtained from the state appropriations, 35 percent from property taxes and 26 percent from tuition, with only 4 percent from "other"

funds. Robuck also pointed out in the 2009-2010 adopted budget plan that 85 percent of the college's general fund expenditures goes to personnel services which includes all of the students, full and part-time employees with only 15 percent going to materials and services.



John Petty Clackamas Print
Head Librarian Terry Mackey reviews the numbers of people coming into the library between 7 and 9 p.m.

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