

# BUDGET: Tuition on the rise

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According to Wilton, the projected average for community colleges is \$80 to \$81 per credit hour for this year. This will still keep Clackamas \$100 lower than the state average of \$152.22 for a student taking 15 credit hours, including the increase in Clackamas is projected to be at \$152.50.

But the board will still have to approve the change in tuition, and it may not be the amount that the college requests. Last year the college raised tuition but at a lower amount than was approved by the board.

"I don't have any control over what the board does. My guess is that they are going to approve it just given the environment that we are in," said Wilton.

Given the same enrollment, a \$1 increase will generate \$180,000 from tuition and \$210,000 from student technology fees.

This budget deficit is caused partially by the recommended decrease in state support. Gov. John Kitzhaber released the recommended budget for next year and community college support was reduced by \$40 million. Currently the legislature is still in session, and the budget has not been approved and sent to the governor for his signature. Members of the college's Board of Education recently went to Salem to meet with the legislature on March 24, according to college President Joanne Truesdell.

At this time, it is difficult to say when the budget for community colleges will be passed and sent on to the governor for signature. I have heard that most budgets will not be passed until after the May 12 Revenue Trust vote," stated Truesdell in an email. The legislature has the power to amend the recommended budget and submit it for approval, the hope is that they will either keep it at the

level recommended by Kitzhaber or preferably increase the amount of support.

"It's also possible that it will be lower," said Wilton. "It's really uncertain. It's really not a good idea to grab onto a higher number at this point and start spending that money because it absolutely isn't here yet."

According to the report, the college will use \$1 million a year from the school's reserve fund. Board policy requires that the college maintain a minimum standing balance of 6 percent of our operating budget.

"With all of our discretionary reserves, we're going to have around \$8.6 million and about \$2.6 million is the minimum. And so \$6 million is the amount that is available over and above the minimum," said Wilton.

The college put out a survey for students and staff to fill out to gauge what they thought the college should cut or do to increase revenue or decrease spending along with meetings with deans and budget forums. As a result, one action taken was to not fill vacant positions, more than 20 of them are spread out throughout the college. They even eliminated the dean of business services position inside Wilton's department.

Unfortunately, the college did have to lay two people off. Two classified staff members, one in the public affairs and another in the student success offices, were given notice that their last day at Clackamas will be June 30 of this year.

"It's not personal, but it's looking at certain positions and deciding where we possibly can do without or do things a different way," said Wilton. "It has nothing to do with these people individually; it has to do with their job responsibilities."

The marketing project coordinator of the public affairs department, Janet Paulson, explained how the college was able to eliminate these two positions.

"The college was able to minimize staff layoffs in part due to the announcement of several retirements in the weeks before budget decisions were made," Paulson stated in an email.

The report also includes a small list of items that will be changed or restricted as well, such as "... tighter controls on travel, supplies and food; even more focus on energy conservation; squeezing more efficiencies from our liability insurance program and bookstore." Other items such as an early retirement incentive are still

awaiting board approval.

Initially the report stated that Wilton and his team will be making a detailed budget plan to be approved for next year, but with the uncertainty of the state budget they will be delaying that meeting.

"It looks like we're not going to meet until we have a better idea of state funding," said Wilton. "Such as if funding were different from the governor's budget, we could incorporate that somehow in the budget."



Facing an \$8.5 million deficit, the college has recommended cuts and increases to close the gap. This chart represents the amount of money each cut or increase will save.

Illustration by Nathan Sturgess Clackamas Print

## Letter to the editor: Student speaks out about the issues

I am a full time honor student in the Manufacturing Department transferred to Clackamas Community College in 2009. I would like to express my voice on behalf of my cohorts in regard to the discussion and proposal of the measure.

I can understand the hesitation many tax payers would have looking at tax increases that they may encounter. I would like to propose an alternative way of funding. As I write this letter to you, I hope you can see the ease and accessibility of technology and the people that have worked over the years to bring it to us for everyday use.

Granted, I am not some computer expert that works for Intel or Microsoft, but the tools they use to create the technology we often take for granted began in the hands of machinists.

The common stereotypes of machinists are that they have no education and this was a trade they learned in Job Corps or in the military. Contrary to this notion, we are educated, hard working citizens

that have aided our country to develop and become successful since the Industrial Revolution.

Without the education that CCC has provided us, countless industries would be impacted and essentially dead in the water without our troubleshooting and technical capabilities. Although our school has good equipment in comparison to other community colleges, we still fall short in the eyes of our potential employers.

"Why would this be?" you ask. When our potential employers are seeking out qualified and experienced machinists, they are looking for how their company can continue to flourish alongside with new technologies being developed daily. This experience requires equipment that CCC does not have funding for.

As a result, a new graduate may be able to find employment within our industry but not at the industry standard and expectations. This can mean a pay differential from \$20 per hour to a potential \$50 per hour.

Currently, some of the equipment

is 40 years old and constantly breaking. Due to the age of those machines, parts are very difficult to locate, are costly to repair and can cause a student backlog of projects needed to be completed prior to the end of the term.

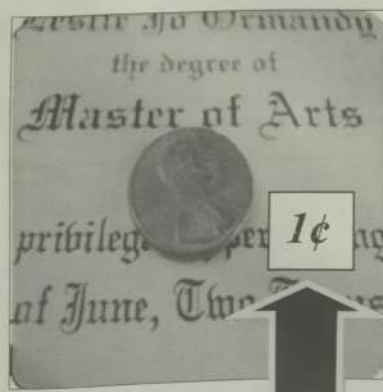
By allowing this bond to pass, our department would not only have the access to upgrade the equipment but to also be highly valued in our community for training such uniquely qualified and professional machinist.

While holding this newspaper, I encourage you to reflect upon how far the technology has improved in the world of news and media. You can thank the machinist who built the printing press and has continued to provide the tools needed to keep people informed and educated. It is my hope that while reading my testimony, students, readers and taxpayers may appreciate the insight I have provided for an industry often forgotten.

Respectfully, Tony Holmes

## Corrections

In issue 16's article "Students should demand college accountability" Nevin Halvorson and Christopher Thomson's names were misspelled. Also, it is the college Board of Education, not Clackamas County.



Proposed Part-time Faculty Increase



Student Tuition/Fee Increase