

College budget under scrutiny

Last November, college staff had the opportunity to respond to a budget survey that yielded some candid and varied opinions. The results were made available on Jan. 10 and reflect suggestions by staff that include raising the tuition for students, trying to pass another bond and the creation of parking fees.

One comment from the survey addressed last year's creation of a position devoted to the college's social media specialist. The college hired Simon Tam for the position last year. The salary range for the job is \$37,675 to \$41,048 per year.

"You lost my support when you began hiring positions that were not absolutely necessary. Examples of 'not absolutely necessary' would have included the social media specialist, plus other positions that were not grant-funded."

This was echoed by another response.

"We wasted a bunch of money hiring non-essential staff like a social media specialist."

The budget synopsis stated that approximately 250 people responded to the specific questions. An additional 109 offered specific suggestions. The survey was limited to staff only.

Ideas about increasing revenue include those mentioned above as well as the pursuit of grants by the college. The synopsis also stated that the sales of underutilized assets were suggested to increase the coffers of the college. To decrease expenditures, there were comments that supported staff giving up their sabbaticals, foregoing cost of living increases and decreasing summer and holiday staffing. One comment was directed at hiring practices.

"Freeze hiring — especially administrative and non-teaching faculty."

Some comments were concise and clear.

"Everyone should probably consider pay cuts if they want to keep their jobs."

The following is a list of just some of the comments made by staff.

-**"There is little activity on campus on Fridays. Would closing on Fridays be viable and helpful?"**

"Given talk of 'fiscal cliffs' and other suggestion of further economic downturn before recovery (particularly in the public sector), it seems we should take some courageous next steps to prepare for a worsening scenario. Best case scenario is this may be the new norm so we may as well adjust."

-**"It's time to reconsider parking fees. I'd gladly pay to have a reserved spot, or a spot in a lot that doesn't have in's and out's all day, is close to campus and secure. How long can we afford to be the only campus that doesn't charge for parking? Check with PSU; they must make mega-bucks from their parking fees."**

-**"Stop hiring deans! How many deans does it take to change people's offices around? If power is important to this administration, go into politics. If education is a priority to this organization, hire more teachers who actually do something for students."**

"Faculty need to accept a larger instructional load, thus accommodating more students and allowing more sections to be offered. Our business is about delivering instruction, so let's quit catering to ourselves and cut the budget in the bargain. This term we've been shown that just having enough students doesn't mean a class can be run. As well, we absolutely also need to raise fees/tuition. The combination of these two things could help immensely."

-**"There seems to be a lot of money thrown at 'reinventing the wheel'. How much was spent to redesign the web site? Have you noticed that it is full of inaccurate information? Do you know how many hours the admins spent reviewing all the department pages, editing them and then submitting that information to the web shepherd? And still the edits are not reflected on the web pages."**

The January message from college president Joanne Truesdell was emailed to all staff the next day and mentioned the current budget situation.

"Over the next 10 weeks, as an institution we must address a \$2.5 million budget gap," Truesdell stated.

- *Compiled by Joshua Dillen*

Transfer Day coming soon

Christopher Taylor
Associate News Editor

Have you thought about the future? Do you know where you're going after CCC, or need some help? Does your educational future loom over you like a shadow? Well have no fear, Transfer Day is right around the corner.

On Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Transfer day will take place inside Gregory Forum. This is an event offered at CCC every year.

Many colleges from the Northwest, as well as out of state schools, set up booths to hand out info and consult with prospective students who hope to transfer to a university or four year college to

complete their degree. Some of the schools present will be Warner Pacific and Portland State, amongst others.

The event is free and open to the public as well as students.

You are encouraged to attend, no matter what degree you're here for or how far along you are in your education here at Clackamas.

Transfer Day can help to offer insight into the future of your college education and your prospects after CCC. You can check out prospective colleges and see what the requirements are to transfer there. You can also talk to counselors from these colleges, ask questions about the programs, how to apply and even what scholarships are available.

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