

ContraCostaTimes.com

Accreditation at stake for Solano Community College

By Tony Burchyns

Vallejo Times-Herald

Article Launched: 11/03/2008 06:14:46 PM PST

After a series of bad report cards and a warning, Solano Community College this week faces another crucial evaluation in its attempt to remain an accredited institution.

For nearly 10 months, the 10,000-student institution has been on warning status set by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

Ultimately at stake is the transferability of district credits to four-year institutions.

On Monday, a five-person review team visited to review the progress report that led to the commission's warning in January.

The review team's visit came on the eve of an election in which three members of the college's governing board majority are facing re-election. The up-in-the-air status of the college's accreditation has been a key campaign issue raised by their opponents.

But the college's problems have predated by several years the current election. Since 2005, the college has been working to show it meets standards for accreditation.

Unless serious questions about planning, budget, operations, staffing stability, fiscal integrity and board conduct have answers, the commission could place the college on indefinite probation.

If later found to be substantially noncompliant with its accreditation requirements, the college could be forced to justify why it should be allowed to remain open. Without accreditation, students would find it troublesome to transfer credits for a four-year degree.

Solano Community College leaders, starting with interim Superintendent-President Lisa Waits, have said the 63-year-old school is in no danger. The school remains fully accredited, Wait assured faculty members last week, and class credits are still transferable to other colleges.

Waits also pointedly noted that the accreditation team is not concerned about the school's teachers or instructional practices.

But the commission — charged by the U.S. Department of Education to regularly review colleges' integrity, quality and effectiveness — has not given Solano Community College a clean bill of health. The panel has raised crucial questions over the past three years.

Lingering questions focus on the college's three superintendent-presidents in just three years, and a sometimes divided board whose members bicker during public sessions and step on administrators' toes, according to previous commission reports.

Following this review, the team could recommend that the accrediting commission take any of the following actions:

- Lift the school's warning status;
- Continue with warning status;
- Place the college on probation;
- Place the college on probation with cause.

Any of those options would preserve the college's accreditation. But there could be significant consequences, Waits said. Probation would be the next step toward possible closure.

Nov. 3

Houston, We Have a Tax Cut

Times are tough all over and many colleges are looking to get every penny they can. But, thanks to the actions of a Texas community college district, taxpayers in Houston are catching a small break.

Last week, Houston Community College's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a decrease in the property tax rate it levies on local residents to fund the operations of its six campuses. Art Tyler, the college's chief operating officer and deputy chancellor, said the tax rate would be cut from .081 to .077 per \$100 of assessed real estate value. For example, the owner of a \$100,000 house would save about \$3.57. While the tax cut is small, college officials say it sends a strong message, even though they will lose \$190,000 in total revenue.

"The economy is clearly being challenged severely," said Mary Spangler, the college's chancellor, acknowledging that local taxpayers are concerned about their resources. "We want to at least express that we're aware of that and make a cut, when in fact the board could have kept the tax rate the same or even raised it. We're at a crossroads and wanted to take time to say that we hear, we understand and we want to be as affordable as we can."

The tax rate cut will come at a time when the college's maintenance and operations budget will also be significantly trimmed. Tyler said the \$241 million budget will be cut by about 8.4 percent or \$4.1 million, adding that most of the savings will come from cost-effective institutional changes suggested by the college's faculty and staff.

When Spangler asked her colleagues to suggest ways the college could save money last year, she received 563 unique suggestions. After aggregating and categorizing the submissions, Spangler and her staff distilled the top 13 ideas to adopt. The ideas included standardizing the college's branding and limiting printing and copying.

"Larger institutions have more options in terms of cutting costs and positioning and reorganizing savings," Spangler said. "That's one of the reasons we have greater flexibility."

Though the college has become more efficient with its resources, it will spend more money this year on debt service than in years past. Tyler said the college will spend almost \$31 million — up about \$3.9 million from last year — in large part because of \$55 million in new construction to accommodate its rapidly growing enrollment. He added that fall enrollment is up 10 percent, although not all of those students will be attending class at the college's brick and mortar campuses. Online and hybrid enrollment is up nearly 28 percent. Future investments, Tyler said,

would not just be in new construction, but also in new technology to accommodate these students.

“Instead of doing things the same old way, we forced ourselves to act more effectively,” Tyler said, noting that the increased revenue from tuition and fees would also help justify the lower tax rate. “Most of what we’ve done recently has been effective and put more money in the classroom. At the same time, we were able to lower the burden of tax on our community.”

In light of tight economic times, however, Tyler said, salaries at the college have fallen behind other community colleges in the state. Though the college’s board approved a 4.3 percent raise in September, some worry the 2.2 percent raise it suggested for the spring may have to be put on hold given the current financial climate. Tyler, however, said the board has not withdrawn its commitment to the raise and did not think the newly approved tax cut would jeopardize it.

College officials maintain that, despite the recent tax cut, the institution is on solid financial footing. The tax cut, they argue, is just another way of being a good steward of the taxpayers’ money.

“This decision wasn’t made for political reasons but based on what is best for the voters and our economy,” Tyler said. “Some of those who we serve are hurting, after having just gone through Hurricane Ike. This was more than a gesture for political capital.”

— David Moltz

Nov. 5

Good Showing for Higher Ed Ballot Measures

With the economy in a downward spiral, voters in states across the country still showed some tolerance Tuesday for funding higher education projects.

Higher education officials in Massachusetts breathed a collective sigh of relief last night to find that their state will maintain its income tax. A rejected ballot measure, brought by two former Libertarian candidates for state and national offices, would have cut the income tax for 2009 and completely eliminated it in 2010. Higher education officials throughout the state expressed concern about the measure and the possibility that it might pass, especially considering a similar proposed revocation of the income tax in 2002 received almost 45 percent of the vote. This time, however, the vote was nowhere near as close.

“We knew public higher ed would have been decimated had this measure passed,” said Donnie McGee, president of the Massachusetts Community College Council, the National Education Association-affiliated union for two-year faculty members and other professional staff. “We would have had to close campuses and the quality of our system would have been questionable. Through this campaign, we’ve learned that we’ve got to be vigilant and come to the legislature to support higher education in our state.”

Fred Clark, chairman of the state board of higher education, expressed a similar sentiment but said public higher education in Massachusetts still has concerns about the future, given that the state ranks 46th in the country in per-capita spending on postsecondary students. Still, Clark was pleased with the defeat of the measure and said it probably passed because 1 in 6 adults are enrolled in public higher education in the state.

While several ballot measures supported by higher education officials were rejected, voters approved bond referendums, state lottery and gambling measures that promise to fund capital projects, scholarships and other programs.

Stephen Katsinas, director of the University of Alabama’s Education Policy Center, said he was not surprised to see voters back important initiatives.

“As the late Tip O’Neill said, all politics is local. If a bond issue is well constituted with the proper groundwork laid with the key constituencies, the chances of passage are much improved,” Katsinas said.

Major bond initiatives in New Mexico, for instance, appeared cleared for passage Tuesday. By midnight, 57 percent of voters — with 49 percent of precincts reporting — had approved a \$140.1 million bond, which would fund higher education construction projects across the state.

The largest project funded by Bond D will be a \$19 million arts complex for New Mexico State University.

Also in New Mexico, voters were poised to approve Bond C, which would provide \$57.9 million for health facilities across New Mexico, including \$40.5 million for colleges and universities. The largest project will be \$17 million for a University of New Mexico cancer research and treatment center.

Both New Mexico bonds will be funded by a property tax, and a simple majority was required for passage.

A major proposal in Florida, which would have potentially introduced a new funding stream into the community college system, failed to garner voters' support. The Constitutional Amendment, which required a 60 percent "super majority," would have given counties the authority to levy a local-option sales tax to supplement state funding for community colleges. Community colleges in Florida do not receive any local support, and instead draw on state revenues, student fees and federal funds.

Support for the Florida measure was mixed among colleges prior to the vote, and larger college districts that were thought to have the most to gain were the key proponents. The amendment had key support from Miami Dade College, for instance, but little vocal support from some of the more rural areas of the state.

"I will say that clearly the message was not championed in other parts of the state as strongly as it was in Miami Dade county," said Juan Mendieta, a spokesman for Miami Dade College. "Hopefully it's raised awareness and that's one of the positive things we take from it."

Other referendums and ballot measures related to higher education include the following:

Arizona:

- Voters approved an amendment to the state Constitution that prohibits the state from creating any tax on the sale or transfer of property. Currently, there are no such measures in the state. The referendum, titled "Protect Our Homes," was opposed by a number of Arizona higher education officials who worried the outright ban could limit funding streams for state colleges and universities in the future.

Arkansas:

- Voters approved a ballot measure which will create a state-wide lottery whose profits will go toward the creation of two- and four-year scholarships.
- A \$111 million bond for Mohave Community College remained undecided as of early Wednesday morning. The bond would be funded by a property tax and requires a simple majority for passage. Working adults make up most of the two-year college's student body, and the funds would be used in part to provide child care services, according to a recent column written by Michael Kearns, the college's chancellor.

California:

- A \$3.5 billion bond measure, which will provide funding for the Los Angeles Community College District appears headed for approval by voters. Requiring a 55 percent majority for passage and funded by a property tax, Measure J will provide funds to improve classrooms and laboratories for the purposes of training nurses, police and firefighters, among other goals. The money will not, however, be used for administrators' salaries, according to the measure that appeared on the ballot. With 55 percent of votes counted, the measure appears to be well above the super-majority required.
- Voters in Visalia and Tulare approved Measures I and J, respectively; both are bonds to fund the College of the Sequoias. Measure I is a \$28 million bond to pay for expansion projects at the community college's main campus in Visalia, and Measure J is a \$60 million bond to create a new campus in Tulare. Each required the approval of at least 55 percent of voters.

Colorado:

- Voters rejected Amendment 58, which would eliminate a subsidy for oil and gas companies and direct 60 percent of those funds toward college scholarships. A simple majority was required for passage of the amendment, which supporters said would end \$300 million in industry subsidies and provide annual scholarships of up to \$5,500 for students in need.
- More gambling will now be allowed in Colorado, following the passage of an amendment to the state Constitution that raises the bet limit from \$5 to \$100. Additionally, the newly approved amendment legalizes gambling statewide 24 hours a day. Currently, casinos have to close when bars do at 2 a.m. About 6 percent of the funds garnered from this gambling will go to benefit the state community college system. Following the vote, opponents of the amendment cautioned the state: "Colorado now joins the states that have high-stakes gambling. While this will create state revenue for one worthy recipient, state community colleges, this benefit does not come without a high price."

Maine:

- Maine's Question 2, which would have allowed a Nevada-based company to build a casino in Oxford County, failed. Thirty-nine percent of the casino's revenue was to go to the state, including a total of 10 percent for higher education. That money would have gone to help residents repay student loans; toward a plan allowing residents to prepay college tuition, fees, and housing; to the Maine Community College System; and to the NextGen First Step Grant Program, which helps residents save for college.

Maryland:

- HB 4, which amends the state's constitution to allow the operation of up to 15,000 video lottery terminals (also known as slot machines) at five locations in Maryland, passed by a comfortable margin. At least 48.5% of the revenues from these slot machines is allocated to a new Education Trust Fund: much of this money will go to public schools, and the

rest to the construction of capital projects at community colleges and other public higher education institutions.

Michigan:

- Wayne County voters overwhelmingly approved the renewal of a 10-year, \$1.5 million bond that provides Wayne County Community College District with about \$33.5 million annually – about 40 percent of the college’s budget. The bond measure failed last year, and the tax was set to expire in 2011; had the measure failed again, the college would have had to consider eliminating jobs and perhaps even campuses.

Montana:

- A property tax levy to support the Montana University System was renewed by voters Tuesday. Legislative referendum-118 provides the system with an estimated \$12.5 million dollars each year through a 6-mill property tax.

North Carolina:

- Wilmington, N.C., voters approved a \$164 million bond referendum for Cape Fear Community College. The measure passed with 63 percent of the vote. This is a turnaround for the college which, in 2005, saw the defeat of a \$150 million bond referendum. The bond money, paid for by a property tax levy, will be used to fund building projects to keep up with the college’s projected 31 percent growth by 2013

Oregon

- A \$374 million bond proposal for Portland Community College is narrowly ahead, but votes are still being counted so the outcome is not yet certain.

— David Moltz, Jack Stripling and Serena Golden

Regional Digest

Published: Tuesday, Nov. 04, 2008 | Page 2B

ELK GROVE

Los Rios college trustee wins national award

Kay Albiani, who has served on the Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees since 1996, has been named National Trustee of the Year.

Albiani, an Elk Grove resident, received the award Friday in New York City from the national Association of Community College Trustees.

"This award is so well deserved," said Los Rios Chancellor Brice Harris. "I have had the pleasure of working with Kay on our board for 12 years, and I have never met a finer board member."

Albiani represents the residents of Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Florin, Sloughouse and the Jackson Road area on the Los Rios board.

– Walter Yost

SFGate.com

Follow the money

Oliver Luby

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

If there is a gold standard for watchdogs of political campaigns, that gold standard is to follow the gold. Ever since the Watergate era, the public has insisted on disclosure of political money - who gives it, who gets it, how it is spent - and the public has insisted on some safeguards against practices like money laundering that hide the true source of campaign money.

So it is more than alarming that San Francisco's Ethics Commission, which is funded with more than \$2 million in taxpayer money, has decided it will ask no questions of major donors - those who contribute \$10,000 or more to political campaigns.

The Ethics Commission refused to ask questions when there were clear signals of illegal campaign activity in the 2005 Community College bond campaign; instead it acquiesced to the demands of campaign attorneys that following the money of major donors is a low priority. It still refuses to follow up on major donors. Last year, The Chronicle broke the story on how money owed to City College of San Francisco was instead laundered into a community college political campaign. A subsequent internal investigation by the college trustees confirmed the transfer. Tens of thousands of dollars were "contributed" after college officials told contractors to divert the money they owed City College into a political fund.

Eighteen months earlier, the Ethics Commission was warned that money laundering might have taken place.

I know, because my job then and now is to be an Ethics Commission officer charged with following the money. I noticed that the political campaign reported contributions from donors who never filed or partially filed. When I called to tell one of them that he was required to report contributions of \$10,000 or more, the contractor told me he never intended to make a political contribution. He only wrote the check that way at the request of the community college.

I wrote a memo in November 2005 to Ethics Commission Executive Director John St. Croix telling him "there may be serious impropriety present in this case necessitating an investigation as well as perhaps even a referral to the District Attorney's office due to the possibility of criminal conduct."

He instructed me not to speak about my report. The episode stayed hidden until The Chronicle broke the story more than a year later.

I identified delinquent major donors who failed to report for elections from 2000 to 2004. My work resulted in scores of disclosures, \$200,000 in penalties, and the discovery of significant

discrepancies between what campaigns reported and what their major donors reported. The result: a backlash against investigating major donor contributions.

At a 2005 Ethics Commission meeting, attorney and campaign adviser Jim Sutton lobbied that "it was not appropriate for the Commission to make the non-filing of major donor reports such a high priority," according to the minutes. Sutton's firm also served as the paid consultant to the community college in the bond campaign.

When the media asked St. Croix why the community college money laundering hadn't been uncovered years earlier, he said, "I don't know who dropped the ball. But at the time, we had less staff and there were a lot of things we were supposed to do and we weren't doing."

Today, it remains the commission's policy not to follow up on major donor contributions. My memo identifying 2005-2006 delinquent major donors received no response at all. In mid-2007, I requested authorization to contact the delinquent donors. The executive director informed me that major donors were not a priority because reporting was of minimal value - an eerie echo of the political consultants who rely on major donors to pay the bills.

I later wrote a third memo, this time to the commissioners, including the decision to end enforcement of major donor delinquencies and how such a delinquency had played the critical role in uncovering the community college money laundering. Subsequently, the Sutton firm again testified to the Ethics Commission that donor enforcement was "awful."

This year, I submitted a fourth memo, this time identifying the 2007 delinquent major donors. It also was ignored. Required disclosure regarding a half-million dollars or more has still not being filed. The policy remains: "Don't tell, don't ask" - just as political campaigns would like it.

What I wrote in 2005 would have remained locked away from public view except that I requested a copy of my own memo under San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance. Once it was released to me, it became a public document.

In making this public now, I rely on whistle-blower protection and another well-proven adage: The public has a right to know.

Oliver Luby is the fines collection officer for the San Francisco Ethics Commission. He submitted this commentary as a private citizen.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

November 7, 2008

STICKER SHOCK

College Too Pricey? Don't Blame Faculty Pay

Professors' salaries are a big part of budgets but are not the big driver of tuition increases

By ROBIN WILSON

During a debate among the Democratic presidential candidates at Saint Anselm College in January, Charles Gibson, the moderator, used what he thought was a realistic example of a two-career academic couple at the small college in New Hampshire. Between them, he ventured during a discussion about tax policies, they would earn about \$200,000 a year.

The audience met Mr. Gibson's statement with laughter and guffaws. Even some of the candidates told him he was off base — and they were right. On average, tenured associate professors at Saint Anselm earned around \$65,000 last year. For young assistant professors, the pay was closer to \$50,000.

The TV anchor apparently is not the only one who envisions professors as among the well-heeled. When *The Chronicle* videotaped interviews with ordinary people on the streets in Washington this fall, asking them what accounted for large increases in college tuition, many pointed at faculty salaries. "It's the rising costs of tenured faculty and all that stuff," said one woman.

So, what is the truth about faculty pay?

First, it varies wildly according to discipline and by what kind of institution is cutting the paycheck: public or private, two-year or four-year. Second, although some faculty members earn enough to qualify as rich, the vast majority do not.

Professors in disciplines like finance do quite well, earning as much as \$406,781 a year, according to a 2007 survey of 100 major public institutions by Oklahoma State University. But in that same survey, English professors earned \$67,931 on average.

"People hear of a few very high salaries because that's very newsworthy," says Cary Nelson, president of the American Association of University Professors. "There aren't so many of those well-off professors as people think."

Still, the association is well aware that the public — and some legislators — believe there is a direct correlation between faculty salaries and rising college tuition. The AAUP spent time trying to punch holes in that notion, without much success.

In a 2004 report called "Don't Blame Faculty for High Tuition," the association said that on average, tuition and fees at public colleges increased by more than double the rate of faculty-salary increases between 1990 and 2003. Tuition rose 6.6 percent per year, on average, while faculty pay rose by only 3.2 percent per year.

"If tuition and fee increases had been held to the rate of average faculty-salary increases during this period," the AAUP report said, "average tuition and fees would be substantially lower today."

Doctors, Lawyers, Professors

Compared with average Americans, professors are well off. While the average full-time faculty member earned about \$75,000 last year, the median household income in the United States was just over \$50,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But compared with other professionals with advanced degrees, faculty members don't fare as well. Indeed, professors are fond of saying that no one else with as much education earns as little as they do.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, the average person with a professional graduate degree earned \$123,141 last year. That is almost \$50,000 more than the average professor.

Part of the problem is that faculty pay has barely kept pace with inflation over the past couple of decades. In real terms, professors earn about the same as they did 20 years ago. From 1986 to 2005, faculty pay grew by only a quarter of a percentage point, adjusted for inflation. Physicians, by contrast, saw their incomes rise by 34 percent, on average, above inflation, and lawyers by 18 percent.

Martin J. Finkelstein, a professor of higher education at Seton Hall University who studies the professoriate, knows firsthand what it is like to be outstripped by other professionals. He has been a professor for nearly 30 years, and his salary of \$120,000 puts him at the high end of the pay scale for faculty members in his field. But last year, one of his colleague's daughters took her newly minted law degree to a top-notch firm in Newark, N.J., where she immediately began earning as much as Mr. Finkelstein.

"In terms of the potential for salary growth after the entry level, the multiples are much greater in law, medicine, and business than they are in higher education," says Mr. Finkelstein. "But I like my job better than most lawyers that I know, because I don't have to worry about billable hours, for one thing."

While faculty members are falling behind other professionals, their raises are also among the smallest on their own campuses. From 1995 to 2005, presidential salaries rose at more than six times the rate that faculty salaries did, according to the AAUP. Faculty pay raises have lagged behind those of campus chief financial officers and chief academic officers, as well.

Faculty salaries do account for the largest single chunk of higher education's recurring annual expenditures. The Commonfund Institute has found that 35.4 percent of the money that colleges

spend on regular expenses each year goes to pay professors, compared with about 10 percent to administrative salaries. But some faculty members say "administrative bloat" is a bigger driver of increasing tuition than is faculty pay. The AAUP's 2008 faculty-salary report points out that from 1976 to 2005, the number of full-time college administrators (vice presidents and deans, for example), rose by 101 percent, while the number of full-time nonfaculty professionals (in student services, development, and information technology, for example) rose by 281 percent. Over the same period, the number of full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty members rose by only 17 percent.

Most telling, however, is that the number of part-time faculty members during those years rose by 214 percent. Over the past couple of decades, colleges have been replacing tenured faculty members when they retire with much less expensive nontenure-track professors, many of whom are paid by the course and do not receive health insurance. Nearly 70 percent of faculty members now work off the tenure track, either on yearly contracts or as adjuncts teaching course by course. As the number of the highest-paid professors in higher education declines, spending on faculty members is expected to drop.

"Given that academia is increasingly staffed by adjuncts and full-time, nontenure-track faculty, all of whom are less expensive, and given that the tenured and tenure-track faculty salaries went up by less than one percentage point over the last 20 years, it is a mathematical impossibility for rising faculty salaries to be driving higher tuition," says Saranna Thornton, a professor and chair of the economics department at Hampden-Sydney College.

Ms. Thornton completed the report on the AAUP's faculty salary survey this year. She doesn't want to say exactly what she earns, but she says it is in line with the average pay of full professors at private, liberal-arts colleges like hers — about \$94,000 last year.

That might sound like a lot, but Ms. Thornton is raising four children on her own. She drives an eight-year-old minivan and owns a modest home in rural Virginia, where housing costs are relatively low. Her idea of a vacation? A one-day trip to Disney World last summer with just one of her kids, thanks to the generosity of her mother and brother, who covered the airfares and park admissions.

"Compared to the average American, I'm well off," says Ms. Thornton. "I'm not going to pretend I'm middle class. But I'm not jet-setting off to the Caribbean on spring break."

Mowing the Lawn at 3 p.m.

Even though the numbers refute the public's perception that high-priced professors are driving up college costs, what is encouraging people to believe that?

Probably the fact that the life of a college professor looks luxurious to those who work 9 to 5. After all, unlike most people, tenured faculty members have jobs for life, spend only a few hours a week in the classroom, and jet off to foreign countries on sabbatical leaves every few years, right?

"The average guy is worrying about his job and he looks out his window on a Wednesday at 3 p.m. and the professor is mowing his lawn," says Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, president emeritus of George Washington University. "People don't really understand higher education, and they are a little resentful."

What the guy next door might not see, though, is that the professor is up writing a journal article or grading papers at 2 a.m. A survey by the U.S. Department of Education has found that professors said they worked an average of 53.4 hours per week. About 40 percent of their time was spent outside the classroom, on research and administrative tasks.

If faculty salaries aren't the chief reason for rising tuition, what is? The AAUP's 2004 report ventured a few guesses. "The bottom line is that although faculty and staff salary increases obviously contribute to increases in tuition, other factors have played more important roles during the last quarter century," it said. It blamed the rising cost of benefits, reductions in state support for public colleges, and the growing expenses of financial aid and information technology.

Higher-education experts tick off a list of other factors. Ronald G. Ehrenberg, director of the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute, calls one of them "the quest to be the best in everything you can do." That means adding expensive programs and buildings.

Other observers point to the rising cost of energy, plus the scramble to offer expensive new recreation centers and residence halls.

"If students come on your campus and you don't have the latest dining hall, the biggest stadium, they don't want to come," says Dennis M. Sweetland, a professor of theology at Saint Anselm, who heads the campus chapter of the AAUP. "Then they complain about the cost and about faculty raises, when in reality we probably make less than their parents."

Students at many colleges have it so good they will be in for a shock when it is time for them to leave, Mr. Sweetland says. "A lot of us joke that we have such nice student housing that when these students graduate, they are going to see downward mobility."

For some faculty members at Saint Anselm, it's another story. A few years ago, for the first time, the college agreed to rent an off-campus house it owned to a new professor who wanted to work there but couldn't afford to buy a home near the campus, only an hour from Boston. The professor rented from the college for three years and saved up money. He recently moved into a place of his own.

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN AVERAGE TUITION AND FEES, FACULTY SALARIES, AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, 1976-77 TO 2002-3

1976-77 to 1990-91

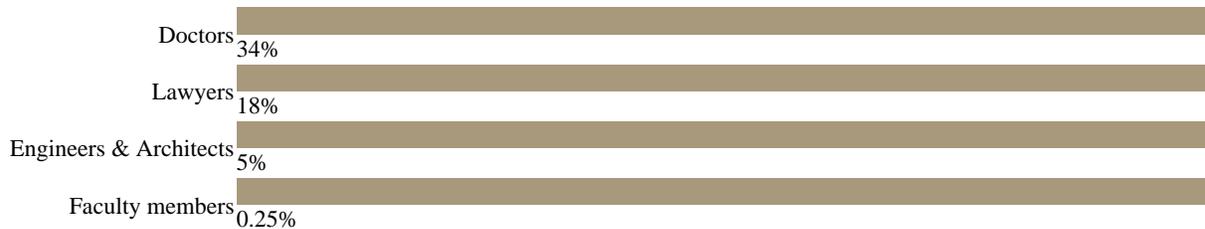
	Private Four-Year	Public Four-Year	Public Two-Year
Average Tuition and Fees	9.8%	8.4%	8.7%
Average Faculty Salaries	6.8%	6.6%	5.9%
Consumer Price Index	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%

1990-91 to 2002-3

	Private Four-Year	Public Four-Year	Public Two-Year
Average Tuition and Fees	5.9%	6.6%	5.2%
Average Faculty Salaries	3.8%	3.2%	2.7%
Consumer Price Index	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%

SOURCES: For average tuition and fees: *Trends in College Pricing 2003* (New York: College Board Publications, 2003), table 5a. For average faculty salaries: AAUP, the Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, Academe, 1976-77 to 2002-3. For Consumer Price Index: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Urban Consumers Series. Annual average data used for 1976, 1990, and 2002 (<http://www.bls.gov>).

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN INFLATION-ADJUSTED SALARIES IN 5 PROFESSIONS, 1986 TO 2005



SOURCE: "Median Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers Who Usually Work Full Time, by Detailed Occupation and Sex, 1983-2002" and "Median Usual Weekly Earnings of Employed Full-Time Wage and Salary Workers by Occupation, 2000-4," unpublished tables, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2006.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

November 7, 2008 issue

Community Colleges, Eager to Prove Their Worth, Develop Voluntary Standards of Performance

By PAUL BASKEN

The federal government's recent focus on making institutions prove their academic quality has left community colleges feeling highly vulnerable, uncertain about how to demonstrate their value to students and therefore worried about losing crucial taxpayer support — especially as their enrollments rise in a sagging economy.

Community-college leaders are now setting out to fix that, and hoping they haven't waited too long. In the past few weeks, the heads of the nation's major community-college associations began what they expect may be a yearlong process of developing voluntary standards in such areas as course-completion rates, transfer readiness, and employer satisfaction.

The idea, said J. Noah Brown, president of the Association of Community College Trustees, is to build a body of statistical evidence to show why federal, state, and local governments — at a time of economic stress — should increase support for community colleges rather than reduce it.

"We must find a way to convince policy makers to stand with us and not cut budgets right now, because I believe that would only deepen and lengthen our economic recession," Mr. Brown said. "But without an accountability system, without the ability to stand firm on results and the ability to show that, it's going to be hard to convince policy makers to do what is essentially counterintuitive."

Hard to Assess

The trustees group is embarking on the mission, in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges and the College Board, after another year of battles over accountability sparked by the final report of the Bush administration's Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

The commission, in that report in September 2006, said the American system of higher education was hamstrung by a widespread lack of data that can help both students and policy makers understand which institutions do the best job of teaching and of producing successful graduates.

Community colleges feel especially at risk because the most traditional measure of success, graduation rates, doesn't fit a body of students many of whom intend to transfer to a four-year college, acquire a vocational skill, obtain remedial assistance, or just learn for the sake of learning.

"The community college does an amazing job of serving all of those goals," said Diane Auer Jones, a former U.S. assistant secretary for postsecondary education, who is now president of the Washington Campus, a consortium of university business schools. But because of that wide mission, she said, "it probably is the hardest to assess a community college."

The answer will probably involve a combination of factors, including measures of course completion, student engagement, transfer readiness, graduation, certification, and employer satisfaction, said George R. Boggs, president and chief executive of the American Association of Community Colleges.

One of the project's first steps in developing recommended measures will involve surveying states to learn what student-performance data their community colleges already collect, he said.

Those organizing the project feel some urgency because governments at all levels are likely to quickly begin cutting budgets now that the economy has turned downward, said Mr. Brown, of the trustees association. Community colleges face that environment without "a set of accountability measures that really reflect the diversity and breadth of our institutions," he said. "We're looking to try to correct that."

Definitions of Success

One initiative that has already begun, Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, has been tracking community-college students in Connecticut, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia over a six-year period. The study, which is supported by grants from the Lumina Foundation for Education and other organizations, includes both part-time and full-time students. It counts success as involving not only graduation rates but also progress toward degrees or transfers to four-year institutions.

On the basis of measures defined in the Achieving the Dream study, growth in the number of students considered to have succeeded over the six-year measuring period ranged from 50 percent, in Ohio, to 3.6 times as large, in Texas.

In another effort, the University of Alaska at Anchorage has begun outlining plans for a new accountability system, based heavily on grades, to rate the performance of the state's community colleges.

The system makes use of the realization that while many community-college students may attend for only short periods of time, they all receive grades that can be tracked. Even if the students are headed in multiple directions, their grades give researchers useful information about where each one is headed and with what degree of success, said Gary Rice, associate vice provost for institutional research.

"I know people can argue about the weaknesses of grades and all that — and believe me, I'm in research, I'm more sensitive to that than anybody else," Mr. Rice said. "But the bottom line is, that is what is the coin of the realm right now."

Many students attend a community college with no intention of graduating, said Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Grades therefore serve as "the primary tool of faculty everywhere" in making judgments of student achievement, said Ms. Eaton, who is a former president of both the Community College of Philadelphia and what was then called the Community College of Southern Nevada.

Skeptics of a grades-based approach for evaluating colleges include Ms. Jones, the former Education Department official, who was an associate professor at the Community College of Baltimore County. She recalls working under a previous administration there that responded to budget worries by pressing instructors to increase student retention by giving better grades.

The leadership of the college "didn't have any malicious intent" but was simply doing what it thought was necessary to protect an institution where many low-income students were trying to juggle many things in their lives, Ms. Jones said. "There was clear pressure to inflate grades."

Individual Progress

Some experts believe that community colleges will never find a fair system of proving their worth without a "unit record" system for tracking students as they move from college to college and into the workplace.

Current information on student performance focuses largely on full-time students who complete a four-year degree program at a single institution. Advocates of a unit-record system, which would track individual students' educational progress across various institutions and into the workplace, say it would be a better measure for community-college students, who often either find jobs closely related to their training or attend multiple institutions before graduating.

"Community colleges really need this, in particular, because it's the only way that they'll ever get credit for the job that they're doing," said Mark S. Schneider, who ran the Education Department's data-collection systems until his departure, in October, as commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Congress barred the Bush administration from pursuing a unit-record tracking system after colleges, led by private four-year institutions, warned that it would represent an unwarranted intrusion into student privacy.

Such a system would "create unprecedented cradle-to-grave tracking of American citizens," wrote Katherine Haley Will, at the time president of Gettysburg College and chairwoman of the Annapolis Group, which represents 124 liberal-arts colleges.

Mr. Schneider and Grover J. Whitehurst, who this month leaves his position as director of the Institute of Education Sciences, the Education Department's main research arm, tried for several years to convince Congress otherwise. Now they have turned to more than two dozen statewide efforts to create such tracking systems. Such efforts might produce useful information because most community-college students who transfer do so within their own state, Mr. Whitehurst said.

But a single nationwide system could have produced more data at less cost and bother for colleges and governments, he said. "The interest of community colleges in this is obvious, since so many of their students end up in other institutions," Mr. Whitehurst said. "And without knowing that, it's very difficult to be able to assess the job that community colleges are doing."

The defeat of unit-record tracking, Ms. Jones said, represented a victory by the nation's most elite institutions, "who were concerned that perhaps a unit-record system would reveal that the more-expensive institutions provide a different social network but potentially not a better educational product."

Any changes in evaluation systems for community colleges also could affect for-profit institutions, which often compete for many of the same students, including those who are trade-oriented or from lower-income backgrounds.

Changes in performance measures, therefore, should be made uniformly throughout higher education, said Arthur Keiser, chancellor of Keiser University, a for-profit institution. "If every form of education created their own set of standards in order for them to look successful, whether they are or not, that to me seems to be manipulative," he said.

The accountability project led by the community-college groups is designed to do more than just help the colleges compete or validate their budget requests, said Ronald Williams, vice president of the College Board.

The goal isn't "to measure the end of something only," he said. The College Board, he said, instead is trying primarily to help community colleges "look and see where they are strong, where they need to improve, and use that data in a formative fashion to keep improving."



11-6-08

Budget ALERT: Governor Proposes \$332 million CCC Cut

Governor Schwarzenegger today **proposed a \$332.2 million cut to community colleges** as part of a \$9.2 billion package of tax increases and budget cuts to address the state's emerging budget deficit.

The specific cuts proposed to community colleges are:

- \$39.8 million by eliminating the 0.68% COLA included in the 2008-08 budget
- \$292.4 million by reducing general apportionments and categorical programs, along with increased categorical flexibility.

More details will be released later today, and we will pass on information as we get it.

DailyBreeze.com

Business calendar

Article Launched: 11/07/2008 10:00:00 PM PST

TUESDAY

Small Business Development Center is offering a free group counseling session on starting a business from 7 to 8 p.m. at El Camino College Business Training Center, 13430 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne. To register: 310-973-3177.

WEDNESDAY

Small Business Development Center is offering two workshops, "Import/Export Orientation," from 1 to 4 p.m. (free); and "Seminario de Importacion y Exportacion," from 6 to 9 p.m. (\$60) at El Camino Business Training Center, 13430 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne. To register: 310-973-3177.

THURSDAY

Small Business Development Center is offering a free workshop, "Employee or Independent Contractor?" from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at El Camino College Business Training Center, 13430 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne. To register: 310-973-3177.

FRIDAY

Small Business Development Center is offering a free workshop, "Contracting 101/Federal Proposal Preparation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at El Camino College Business Training Center, 13430 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne. To register: 310-973-3177.

From: Skinner, Erik [mailto:eskinner@CCCCO.EDU]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 11:49 AM
To: SO2CEO@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET
Subject: budget update--November 6, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

Governor Schwarzenegger just held a press conference at which he declared a fiscal emergency, triggering a special session of the Legislature to address the state's current-year budget problem. Here are the highlights:

- The governor identified a current-year revenue shortfall of \$11.2 billion. In addition, he is projecting a \$13 billion shortfall for 2009-10 if no corrective action is taken.
- The governor called for quick action in four areas: 1) balancing the budget; 2) steps to stabilize the housing sector; 3) implementation of an economic stimulus package; and 4) stabilizing the Unemployment Insurance Fund.
- The governor's proposal to balance the budget includes a total of \$8.9 billion in new solutions--\$4.5 billion in cuts to current-year spending and \$4.4 billion in current-year tax increases. In addition, the governor's plan would spend the \$1.7 billion reserve from the state budget. The remainder of the shortfall would be carried forward into the 2009-10 budget.
- For the community colleges, the governor proposes \$332.2 million in current-year reductions. These include:
 - Elimination of the 0.68 percent COLA for apportionments (\$39.8 million)
 - \$292.4 million reduction to apportionments.
 - Flexibility for districts to redirect categorical monies to the district general fund. This flexibility would be limited to the amount of the apportionment reduction. In addition, districts would be required to hold public meetings in regards to any such redirections.
 - The governor stated his expectation that districts would take steps to protect course offerings in the areas of transfer, basic skills, and CTE.
- The tax increases proposed by the governor include:

- Temporary increase in the sales tax of 1.5 percent. This increase would be in place from January 2009 to January 2012. Estimated to generate \$3.54 billion in 2008-09 and \$7.319 billion in 2009-10.
- Broadening of sales and use tax to include certain services. This increase is estimated to raise \$357 million in 2008-09 and \$1.156 billion in 2009-10.
- Implementing an oil severance tax. Estimated to generate \$528 million in 2008-09 and \$1.195 billion in 2009-10.
- Increase in Alcohol and Excise taxes. Estimated to generate \$293 million in 2008-09 and \$585 million in 2009-10.
- VLF fee increase. Estimated to generate \$150 million in 2008-09 and \$359 million in 2009-10.

Please keep in mind that all these proposed changes would require passage by the Legislature and approval by the governor. It is quite likely that negotiations between the governor and legislators over the next couple weeks will result in changes to this budget package. The end of the current legislative session on November 30 creates an immovable deadline for state leaders to enact a budget solution if they hope to do so before a new batch of legislators are sworn in.

That is all the information we have at this time. We will continue to meet with legislators and administration officials to work for the best outcomes possible for the community colleges. Community college advocates are meeting today to strategize over the governor's proposal in order to coordinate our efforts. More information to follow.

Regards,

Erik Skinner
Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy
Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges
916-323-7007



League Budget Update #23: November 11, 2008

LAO: Increase fees to \$30 per unit; cut "enrichment" classes

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), which is the nonpartisan advisor to the Legislature, today issued a report analyzing the governor's proposed midyear cuts and making suggestions of its own.

In the report, the LAO generally endorses the governor's revenue proposals, but also calls for a partial restoration of the higher vehicle license fee ("car tax"). Additionally, the LAO recommends taking action now on deeper cuts for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

For community colleges, the LAO recommends:

- Eliminating the 0.68% COLA adopted in the budget act
- No 5% cut to the general apportionment
- Increasing fees to \$26 per unit on January 1, 2009 and to \$30 on July 1, 2009
- Reducing funding to the regular noncredit rate for:
 - "certain credit-bearing physical education classes (such as pilates, racquetball and golf)" effective January 1, 2008
 - "additional enrichment courses (such as ballroom dancing, drawing and photography)" effective July 1, 2009

Upon full implementation, the reduction in reimbursement rates would cut community college funding by \$200 million in 2009-10. Colleges would not be able to keep the \$120 million in increased fees.

Read the [entire report](#).

www.sacbee.com

Posted on Friday, Nov. 07, 2008

Dan Walters: Budget meltdown was inevitable

By Dan Walters

Well, it was bound to happen sooner or later. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and an ideologically polarized Legislature had danced around California's budget mess for years, running up deficits even during prosperous years and covering shortfalls with hide-the-pea bookkeeping and phantom revenues.

Their current budget, enacted just a few weeks ago after a record-long stalemate, was packed with even more gimmicks and based on a revenue forecast that wasn't worth the paper on which it was printed. And on Thursday, Schwarzenegger – who was elected five years ago on his pledge to end "crazy deficit spending" – made it official: The budget is already more than \$11 billion upside down.

Schwarzenegger did what politicians do when adversity strikes – blamed circumstances beyond his control. "In the six weeks since I signed our last budget, the mortgage crisis has deepened, unemployment has increased, and the stock market has lost almost 20 percent of its value," he told reporters as he called for sharp spending cuts, hitting education and welfare the hardest, and \$4.7 billion in new taxes, including a 1.5-cent boost in the sales tax.

SacBee.com

Posted on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008

Dan Walters: Bigger deficit won't crack Capitol stalemate

By Dan Walters

Legislative budget analyst Mac Taylor says the state budget deficit is even worse than Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's estimate – "truly awful" in his words.

Furthermore, he says that without decisive action the gap will average \$22 billion a year for the next five years, even if the economy recovers quickly, clearly an unsustainable prospect.

But does the deficit's immensity mean the Legislature, which has been ideologically gridlocked on spending and taxes for years, will suddenly find the will to act? Will Republicans end their opposition to new taxes and Democrats to permanent spending cuts?

SFGate.com

All 23 CSU campuses may turn away students

Jim Doyle, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, November 8, 2008

The state's worsening budget crisis is forcing the California State University system to consider turning away some eligible students from all 23 campuses for the first time in its history.

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed blamed the proposed enrollment restrictions on Sacramento's underfunding of the university's budget, which was cut in September and now faces a midyear cut as the state's financial woes worsen.

The university's governing Board of Trustees is scheduled to discuss Reed's proposal Wednesday during a meeting at CSU headquarters in Long Beach. The trustees also will be asked to consider increasing tuition for business school graduate students.

While individual campuses have closed enrollment in the past, such a move has never been imposed across the entire system, which is the largest four-year university operation in the country. The proposal does not estimate how many students could be denied admission, but it could be thousands.

His proposal follows the announcement this week by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is beset by a multibillion-dollar shortfall in the state budget, of midyear funding cuts of \$66.3 million to CSU. This summer, the state slashed \$31.3 million in CSU funds.

"For several years, the CSU system has been providing access to more students, while resources have remained static and in some cases have declined," according to Reed's proposal, which was posted Friday afternoon on the university system's Web site. "While student demand to enroll is at its highest levels, the state is unable to provide the funds necessary to enable CSU to admit and enroll these students."

Specifically, the proposal states, the fiscal 2008-09 budget does not provide funding above last year's. "Given the state's worsening fiscal condition, it is anticipated that funded students for 2009-10 will remain at 2007-08 levels."

The chancellor and campus presidents have agreed to limit campus enrollments to about 343,000 full-time students.

If CSU decides to close its doors to some of California's eligible students, preferential admission would be given to entering freshmen within each campus' local community or "service area" as well as transfer students from nearby community colleges who have successfully completed their lower-division requirements.

Many first-generation students

"This will ensure continued access to students who do not have the resources to relocate, who have family obligations or who have employment commitments," the proposal states. "Many of these students are underserved, first-generation students."

Applicants who are entering freshmen or transfer students from outside a CSU campus service area would not be given priority and could end up on a wait-list, admitted only if space is available.

The university plans to continue to guarantee enrollment for eligible military veterans.

With few exceptions, applicants seeking a second bachelor's degree, as well as transfer students who have not completed their lower division work, would be denied admission.

Restrictions on admission also would affect CSU's application deadlines. At state university campuses that are already considered full, the next school year's application period will end Nov. 30. At other campuses, the application period will end March 1.

"If they stick to those deadlines, otherwise qualified freshmen are not going to get in," Kim Geron, vice president of the California Faculty Association, said Friday. "We think that they're abandoning the policy of access to a quality education for otherwise qualified students."

10,000 turned away

Some of the measures have been imposed before but on a more piecemeal basis, he said.

For example, he said, earlier this year CSU turned away about 10,000 eligible students by moving up campus deadlines for applications. Also, at some campuses, CSU has already prevented some transfer students from community colleges to enter CSU during the spring semester. And some campuses require a higher grade-point average for students who live outside their community, or service area.

In the past, a student who was denied admission at a CSU campus that was already full could gain admission at another campus. But that has become increasingly difficult in recent years.

"We thought we should bring this (proposal) out," said Claudia Keith, vice chancellor for public affairs. "We've been hit by budget cuts and expect to be hit by more."

Reed has proposed a fiscal 2009-10 budget that includes an augmentation of \$611.4 million from the state, including \$86.9 million in revenue to avoid a 10 percent student fee increase.

In addition, Reed has proposed seeking a \$116.7 million recovery for revenues that were not received from the state in the current fiscal year. Those funds are needed, according to the chancellor, to maintain competitive salary levels for faculty and staff.

Higher tuition for MBA students

The trustees will also be asked to consider a tuition fee increase for students enrolled in state-supported master of business administration and similar business graduate programs. The proposed amount of this fee is \$210 per semester unit (\$140 per quarter unit) beginning in the fall term of 2009, with 25 percent of the revenue set aside to support students who show financial need.

According to Reed's proposal, the purpose of the fee is to recruit and retain well-qualified faculty in the competitive market for business specialists.

"We think that this would be a terrible decision on their part, because singling out one segment of the graduate student population to pay an additional fee would be a terrible precedent for all graduate students," Geron said. "Next, would be anyone getting a professional degree: nurses, social workers and teachers."

By the numbers

\$31.3 million

Funding cuts to CSU announced this summer.

\$66.3 million

Additional midyear funding cuts to CSU announced last week.

343,000

Number of full-time students to which the chancellor and campus presidents have agreed to limit campus enrollments.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

11/3/08

As Colleges Tighten Belts, Leaders Urge Caution

By KARIN FISCHER

New York

Community-college leaders gathered here for the annual conference of the Association of Community College Trustees were warned by a City University of New York vice chancellor to “do no harm in a rush to cut budgets.”

Conversations with some of the more than 2,000 presidents, trustees, and other administrators convened for the four-day meeting, which ended on Saturday, revealed a variety of strategies for dealing with likely budget shortfalls, including increasing class sizes, relying more heavily on part-time instructors, and tapping reserve funds.

Community colleges in nearly half the states expect to face midyear cuts in their appropriations, according to a survey of members of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges (see [article](#)). And some officials here said they also anticipated the funds they receive from local property taxes to decline.

Few colleges, however, are closer to the center of the financial storm than those that are part of the City University of New York. Ernesto Malave, the system’s vice chancellor for budget and finance, said his budget was \$82-million less than what he had at this time last year. New York, where Wall Street financial firms’ tax payments account for a fifth of state revenues, faces a \$12.5-billion budget deficit. “Sometimes,” he said, “you have to tighten your belt more than you’d like.”

Mr. Malave, who was part of a panel on dealing with the financial crisis, said he had been able to soften the blow of an earlier reduction in state support by drawing on a \$30-million budget-stabilization fund. The fact that CUNY has both two- and four-year colleges also allows him to find greater efficiencies and spread cuts among institutions.

Judicious Trims

Mr. Malave cautioned that colleges need to be deliberative and strategic as they seek savings. Otherwise, they could risk undercutting their academic mission or inadvertently contribute to future financial problems, he said.

Several college leaders said one strategy they would not pursue was increasing tuition and fees for students, who themselves are facing a financial squeeze. “We’re at a tipping point” in terms

of tuition, said Don Coffey, chairman of the Board of Regents of Lee College, in Texas. “That’s not an option.”

Mr. Coffey said he anticipates budget reductions of between 5 and 10 percent when the Texas Legislature returns in the new year. The college can find small savings, like reducing its energy bills by being more efficient, but those would probably not be enough, he said. (The college’s budget is \$42-million.)

Staff payroll and benefits account for the largest chunk of Lee’s spending, and, although the college has resisted doing so in the past, it might have to consider employing more adjunct faculty members to replace 30 full-time instructors who accepted an early-retirement package, Mr. Coffey said. “When it really comes down to it, you’ve got to look at personnel,” he said.

More Students per Instructor

At Maricopa County Community College District, there could be a shift to larger classes and lectures. “We used to tout our small class sizes,” said Rufus Glasper, chancellor of the 10-campus district, in Arizona. “I don’t think we’ll be doing that anymore.”

Maricopa also will be looking to offer more online or hybrid courses to reduce costs, he said.

But community colleges also shouldn’t forget that, in this time of financial distress, their mission is actually more relevant than ever, Mr. Glasper said. As the largest providers of work-force preparation, they can make the pitch to state lawmakers to invest in them to retrain workers displaced from their jobs.

And although the outlook is bleak, Mr. Coffey said he thinks community colleges are resilient. He pulled out a copy of a news article about the effect of the economic downturn on community colleges. It warned, he said, that community colleges were, for the first time, threatened with financial insolvency.

“That was written in 1972,” he said. “I believe we’ll be able to survive.”

The Chronicle of Higher Education

11/7/08

Admissions and Aid Officials Brace for a Wave of Retirements

By ERIC HOOVER

Over the next decade, thousands of baby-boom admissions and financial-aid professionals will retire, leaving colleges with empty chairs. Are there enough qualified applicants to fill all the seats?

The question sparked much discussion here on the second day of the College Board's annual conference.

In a session on recruiting and retaining employees, Pamela W. Fowler described the task as one of her profession's most serious challenges. "The question," she said, "is where are we going to find replacements?"

Ms. Fowler, executive director of financial aid at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, has reason for concern. More than half of the managers in her office—and a third of the overall staff—will be eligible to retire by 2014.

Recently Ms. Fowler tried to hire a new associate director for fiscal management and scholarships, only to find a dearth of candidates who could manage a large budget, understood federal financial-aid programs, and had been a supervisor.

Instead, she found applicants from other fields who had strong "fiscal experience" but little or no knowledge of how higher education operates. Also, she heard from bright, young applicants who had plenty of confidence but little of the necessary know-how, such as an understanding of financial modeling.

Ultimately, Ms. Fowler eliminated the position and restructured her staff. The move allowed her to promote another employee, who was 60, to handle the responsibilities of the job for which she had advertised. That experience inspired the advice Ms. Fowler gave her colleagues on Thursday.

"We need to encourage more professional development and broaden the scope of responsibilities of the people that we do have," she said.

Several senior administrators agreed that younger professionals are, in general, less willing than their predecessors to make sacrifices to advance their careers. Those include relocating and investing in professional training.

Colleges, therefore, must do more to nurture them, said Rodney Oto, associate dean of admissions and director of student financial services at Carleton College, at the same session.

"Be flexible," Mr. Oto advised his audience. "Be willing to accept someone with less experience who might need more training."

In other words, administrators may need to devote more time than ever to serving as mentors to their employees. Experienced officials, Mr. Oto said, must give younger workers more challenges that will enhance their skills and groom them for top-level jobs.

Sometimes managers are reluctant to do that, for fear of losing good employees, according to one longtime admissions official in another session on recruitment and retention.

"It's about giving them roots and wings," said the official, Jerry Flanagan, vice president for enrollment management at St. Michael's College, in Vermont. "You want to encourage staff to develop skills and talents that will make them more marketable while encouraging them to stay."

To that end, Mr. Flanagan presented a top-10 list of suggestions. They included urging staff members to get involved in campus activities, performing community service as a group, and going on regular retreats. "You want to get to know your staff on a personal basis," he said.

The Millennial Factor

That rapport may prove crucial for fifty- and sixty-something managers who work with members of the so-called millennial generation, most of whom were born in the 1980s and 90s. What qualities do those younger employees bring to the admissions profession?

"The attention span of a gnat on a triple espresso," quipped Jonathan Steele, a higher-education consultant in Massachusetts.

Jokes aside, Mr. Steele encouraged his audience to consider how millennials often differ from their older colleagues. For one thing, he said, they welcome "fluidity," or taking their work home with them, a trait that may mesh well with the many admissions offices that have become paperless operations.

That many younger workers consider work-life balance crucial, he said, may also have implications for admissions and financial-aid offices in the future.

At Michigan recently, one of Ms. Fowler's employees asked if she could work a four-day week so as to spend more time with her family. Although Ms. Fowler did not want to set a precedent, she worried that if she said no, the woman might leave the profession altogether. And so Ms. Fowler allowed her to take Wednesdays off, with a reduced salary.

"For younger people, family concerns are very important for them," she said, "and may play a huge role in deciding even to apply."

Perhaps none of those considerations matter as much as bottom-line rewards. Julie Browning, dean of undergraduate enrollment at Rice University, has expanded the size of her staff from 12 to 18 employees over the last few years as the office has worked to increase the size of incoming classes by 30 percent.

One new retention strategy was to create more steps on the staff ladder, which allows for more frequent promotions. Another tactic was to raise the starting salaries of lower-level admissions jobs, which, throughout academe, typically pay little.

"If you want them to look like \$40,000," Ms. Browning said, "you've got to pay them \$40,000."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

11/14/08

Use of Part-Time Instructors Tied to Lower Student Success

By PETER SCHMIDT

At a time when colleges are under increasing financial pressure to rely more on part-time instructors, three new studies suggest that doing so erodes the quality of education many students receive.

Part-timers' inability or unwillingness to devote more time to students outside the classroom, the research suggests, results in the denial of important support services to many students — including, often, those who need the most help.

And in a finding that breaks new ground, one of the studies concludes that heavy reliance on part-timers can actually hurt the performance of full-time, tenure-track faculty members. One possible explanation: Full-timers feel less secure at institutions that might replace them with part-time instructors and lecturers, said that study's author, Paul D. Umbach, an associate professor of adult and higher education at North Carolina State University.

Part-timers are not the ones to blame, Mr. Umbach said: "We are not treating these faculties in a way that they are feeling valued."

Faculty members who work part time — who are usually given adjunct-faculty status — are divided on the accuracy of the studies' portrayal of their dedication and the obstacles they face.

Nancy McMahon, who works as a part-time English instructor at Madison Area Technical College, in Wisconsin, said she feels very much under the gun.

"You find it very hard to put in the kind of time you would like to because you have to do other things to make a living," she said. When she takes into account all of the time her college expects her to spend preparing for class, grading papers, and meeting with students in an office space she shares with other professors, the money she gets per course "comes out to minimum wage."

But Barbara Houchen, a former college administrator and full-time professor of business who now works as a part-time instructor at several Maryland colleges, said she regularly interacts with students outside of class because doing so is expected and makes her effective. "You understand that it is part of your teaching obligation," she said. "If you accept teaching for X number of dollars, then you accept that."

Cary Nelson, president of the American Association of University Professors, said, "We have had our heads in the sand about this problem for many years, and the problem is getting worse."

He said most part-time faculty members are deeply committed to their work, but many are "just frazzled" as a result of the pressures placed on them, and "the students are paying a price for it."

Vulnerable Populations

About 46 percent of the nation's college faculty members are part time, up from 22 percent back in 1970, according to the most recent Education Department data on them, from 2003. Part-timers are especially prevalent at community colleges, accounting for about 67 percent of their teaching staffs, up about 40 percentage points from 1970 levels.

The National Education Association estimates, based on federal data, that part-time faculty members with teaching duties spend 91 percent of their time delivering instruction, compared with about 61 percent for full-time faculty members. Across all institutions of higher education, such part-time faculty members generally spend six to nine hours per week teaching for-credit classes and are paid just over a fourth as much, per course, as their full-time counterparts.

Of particular concern to some education researchers is the tendency of colleges to use part-timers to teach lower-level courses, as well as courses offered at night, when part-time students are most likely to be coming to campus.

"The reality is that both part-time faculty and part-time students are less engaged with the college," said Kay M. McClenney, director of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin.

In night classes, she said, "those realities collide," undermining students' chances of succeeding. She expects the situation to get worse in the current economic downturn, as people who cannot find jobs enroll at public colleges to learn new skills, and the colleges, facing tight budgets, turn to part-time instructors to meet rising demand.

Considering that low-income students are most likely to attend community colleges, and that low-income students and college freshmen are the most likely to need advising and other support outside the classroom, Ernst Benjamin, a former director of research at the AAUP, said the recent results reinforce his concern that "the students who need help the most are not getting it."

"A lot of this is budget driven," acknowledged Mr. Benjamin, who is now the association's general secretary. But, he said, "it is all contrary to the whole movement toward wanting to have better teaching and learning."

Hurt Prospects

The findings of the three new studies on part-time faculty were scheduled to be presented last week at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Two of the studies, focused on the academic success of community-college students with part-time instructors, are by Audrey J. Jaeger, an associate professor of higher education at North

Carolina State University, and M. Kevin Eagan Jr., a graduate student at the University of California at Los Angeles.

In a previous study, presented at a conference last spring, Ms. Jaeger and Mr. Eagan examined the transcripts of 30,000 students at four public four-year universities in a Southeastern state and concluded that those students who were taught "gatekeeper" courses by part-time adjuncts, lecturers, or postdoctoral fellows were less likely to return for their sophomore years.

For their latest studies, the researchers analyzed data from California's community-college system to try to determine whether being taught by part-timers influenced students' prospects of reaching certain academic goals. In one of the studies, the findings of which were published last month in *Research in Higher Education*, Ms. Jaeger and Mr. Eagan examined the transcripts of about 25,000 first-time students whose course-taking behavior suggested they intended to transfer to four-year institutions.

The two researchers found that the likelihood of students continuing on to four-year institutions dropped by 2 percent for every increase of 10 percentage points in their credits earned with part-time faculty members. That remained true even after accounting for differences in the community colleges and in students' backgrounds.

For the average student, the trend translates into an 8-percent drop in the likelihood of transferring. That is because the average student in the study earned almost 40 percent of credits from part-time faculty members.

In their other study, the researchers used similar methodology to examine the transcripts of about 179,000 students who, when enrolling, had stated a desire to earn an associate degree and then demonstrated their seriousness by completing at least nine credit hours by the end of their first year. The researchers found that each increase of 10 percentage points in overall exposure to part-time faculty members was correlated with a reduction of 1 percentage point in such students' likelihood of earning associate degrees.

The researchers said both studies have important limitations, such as their inability to account for differences in students' remedial class-taking behavior or out-of-class experiences.

Nancy B. Shulock, executive director of the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy at California State University at Sacramento, said the study examining student transfers may have understated students' success by tracking them over just five years. But, she said, "there is no disputing that having students be able connect on a personal and sustained basis with faculty is important."

Commitment Gap

In Mr. Umbach's study of the effects of part-timers on full-time faculty members, he analyzed 2001 survey data from about 21,000 faculty members at 148 twoand four-year colleges gathered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles. He found that, compared with full-time faculty members, part-timers advised students less

frequently, used active teaching techniques less often, spent less time preparing for class, and were less likely to participate in teaching workshops.

The most striking finding, Mr. Umbach said, is that when part-timers accounted for a substantial share of the instructors on a campus, its full-timers devoted substantially fewer hours than full-timers elsewhere to preparing for class or advising students.

Mr. Umbach speculated that full-time faculty members at colleges that employ large numbers of contingent faculty members feel they could be easily replaced, and are thus less committed to their institutions.

But other experts on labor in higher education have a different explanation for the effect. They note that, as the ranks of full-time faculty members dwindle, those remaining find themselves shouldering an ever-larger share of the burden for outreach, curriculum development, and student assessment and advising. John S. Levin, director of the California Community College Collaborative, a policy-research center based at the University of California at Riverside, said that at colleges heavily staffed by part-timers, "it is difficult to have a coherent academic culture" where people within academic departments work together.

Making Do

Keith Hoeller, chairman of the adjunct-faculty committee of the Washington State affiliate of the AAUP, took issue with any suggestion that part-time faculty members are inferior to their full-time counterparts. What Mr. Umbach's study is measuring, he said, "is not really part-timers versus full-timers, but institutional support."

Mr. Umbach said he was sympathetic to part-timers, who, he said, are "treated like crap" and then faulted for not being more effective. "From an economist's perspective, we are not giving them the rewards or incentives to do a good job," he said.

A similar assessment was offered by Gwendolyn Bradley, who specializes in contingent-faculty issues as a senior program officer at the AAUP. She complained that, along with not being adequately compensated for time spent with students outside the classroom, many part-time faculty members are recruited by colleges at the last minute, hired with little scrutiny, and not permitted to select their own books.

Most of the faculty experts interviewed for this article said that because colleges are not likely to stop relying on part-time faculty members anytime soon, the key question raised by the latest research is how to make the best of the situation.

Several said the solution is offering part-timers contracts that reward them for giving more time to their jobs outside the classroom. They pointed to contracts in place at the City University of New York, the University of Michigan's campuses, and Vancouver Community College, in British Columbia, as models of how to provide part-timers with incentives to improve the educational outcomes of their students.

Ms. Jaeger, co-author of two of the studies, said part of the solution may be rethinking what classes part-timers are assigned to teach, and having them work with populations, such as full-time and upper-level students, who are least likely to need help outside the classroom.

INNOVATIVE CONTRACTS BENEFIT PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

The low pay, scant professional development, and poor office space given to many part-time instructors and lecturers keep them from engaging students, some say. A few colleges, however, have contracts with incentives for part-timers to help students succeed.

Vancouver Community College

Many representatives of part-time faculty members point to Vancouver as a model for colleges in the United States.

In calculating how many hours each part-timer gets paid for, the Canadian college takes into account time spent outside the classroom doing such things as holding office hours, grading papers, preparing course materials, supervising practicums, and tending to administrative duties. Each academic department devises — subject to approval by a dean — a contract spelling out how much time each part-timer will devote to each job-related activity.

Moreover, the college prorates its compensation of part-time instructors so that their hourly earnings are comparable to those of full-time faculty members with similar levels of experience. That is a substantial improvement over their earnings per hour elsewhere.

The bottom line is that "a part-timer is not just going in and teaching a class," says Robert G. Henderson, the college's vice president for human resources and student affairs.

City University of New York

The city system has a contract stipulating that, for every six hours part-time adjuncts teach at any given campus, they will be paid for one additional hour for "professional development" activities, which can include holding office hours. "Before, if you did that, you did it totally pro bono," says Marcia Newfield, vice president for part-time personnel for the Professional Staff Congress, the union representing the CUNY faculty and staff members. "Now," she says, "you have an obligation to be there for an hour."

University of Michigan

A contract between the university and its Lecturers' Employee Organization ties the compensation of part-time faculty members to performance reviews that take into account various measures of the quality of instruction provided.

The Michigan contract also provides a fund for professional-development grants for part-time faculty members, available on a competitive basis. The California State University system has a similar fund that part-timers can tap into to finance participating in workshops, seminars, and other activities that will enhance their effectiveness in the classroom.

Nov. 6

Evaluating the Adjunct Impact

Adjunct faculty members are increasingly pointing out the inequities of the way they are treated — even as the recession leads some colleges to rely on them more and others to eliminate their positions.

A series of studies being released this week suggest that the current model for using adjuncts — with relatively low pay, little if any job security, and minimal financial or other support for time on campus or professional development — also has a significant impact on students. Using large samples of community colleges, studies find that as colleges use more part timers, their students are less likely to graduate or transfer to four-year institutions. And another study finds that as part-time use goes up, institutional averages in class participation (for *all* faculty members) go down.

The studies are being presented this week at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Some studies looking at the impact of part-time faculty members in the past have frustrated many adjuncts because of the implication that these impacts suggest poor performance by the adjuncts themselves. These studies don't make such a suggestion and are in fact consistent with the views of adjunct activists that mistreating part timers creates conditions that hurt students.

If adjuncts don't have offices and aren't paid for time outside of class, the theory goes, is it any surprise that they are going to spend less one-on-one time with students? But raising these issues is a double-edged sword for part timers, who fear that this kind of research can encourage negative views of individual adjuncts — even if the researchers take care (as these researchers did) not to “blame” part timers for setting up the current higher education system.

The findings on adjuncts and community college performance were both based on studies of California community college transcripts and were conducted by Audrey Jaeger of North Carolina State University, and M. Kevin Eagan of the University of California at Los Angeles.

On transfer rates, they found a “significant and negative association between students' transfer likelihood and their exposure to part-time faculty instruction. Indeed, for every 10 percent increase in students' exposure to part-time faculty instruction, students tended to become almost 2 percent less likely to transfer. Although the strength of this association may seem small, the average student in this sample had almost 40 percent of his or her academic credits with part-time faculty members, which translates into being, on average, about 8 percent less likely to transfer compared to peers who had no exposure to part-time faculty members.”

Similarly, the study on teaching preparation — conducted by Paul Umbach of North Carolina State University — notes differences in class preparation time, likelihood of attending professional workshops and so forth. Adjuncts, not surprisingly, have less time for these activities, the study finds.

The authors of the new reports take care to relate these trends to the conditions of part-time employment, not to the performance or quality of adjuncts. And they note that at many institutions, especially community colleges, part-time faculty members provide a growing share of instruction — a trend likely to grow with increased enrollments and state funds.

“Community colleges must learn to work within the system that they have perpetuated by identifying ways to tap into the talents offered by part-time faculty members,” says the conclusion of the study on transfer rates. “Finding ways in which to encourage part-timers to make time for students outside of class, such as by providing part-time faculty with office space or additional money to compensate them for holding office hours, may mitigate the negative relationship between part-time faculty exposure and students’ likelihood to transfer.”

— Scott Jaschik

Districts face hurdles in securing bond money

Credit crunch is a factor; oversight panels a priority

By Maureen Magee
STAFF WRITER

November 9, 2008

San Diego County families might be scrimping at home, but the bleak economy didn't stop voters from backing seven tax-supported school bond measures on Tuesday's ballot to finance \$3.18 billion in campus repairs and construction.

Getting the bonds passed might be the easy part of the process for school districts.

"The hard part is now," said Ron Bennett, president and CEO of School Services of California, a Sacramento-based consulting firm that represents 80 percent of the state's school districts.

"Issuing the bonds and getting the money will be harder because of the credit crunch in bond markets," Bennett said. "There will be more skill and planning required of school districts to issue bonds at a cost-effective rate."

The first order of business for districts is to establish the independent review committees required under the law to monitor bond expenditures.

Promises of tight oversight helped sell the bond measures to voters. So did the economic benefits that come with massive construction projects.

Some bond campaigns even used the plummeting economy as a hook, promoting potential jobs and touting lower costs that come with increased competition in the stalled building industry.

Terry Grier, superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District, has been celebrating the passage of its \$2.1 billion Proposition S bond measure. That victory had been long predicted based on extensive polling.

But the celebration has been as low-key as the campaign itself. That's a sharp contrast to the fanfare that surrounded the successful \$1.5 billion Proposition MM campaign 10 years ago. Then-Superintendent Alan Bersin donned a hard hat at a news conference 24 hours after Election Day.

"It wasn't because of anything I did," said Grier, who inherited the bond plans when he was hired less than a year ago. "I'm just grateful to the voters of San Diego for valuing our children and our schools."

With every bond measure in the county passing, local voters were more generous than their counterparts elsewhere in California, unofficial election results show. Overall, the state saw a 92 percent pass rate for local general obligation bonds (85 of 92 won statewide).

Some say the bonds and other tax measures benefited from the unusually high voter turnout that led to Barack Obama's victory. Democrats and minorities, two populations that historically support education, voted in record numbers.

“Given this environment, it is impressive that so many communities in our state passed needed school bond and parcel tax proposals,” said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell.

Approval of the South Bay Union High School District's \$59.4 million Proposition X is a sign that voters are savvy about education needs, said Matt Carlton, principal at Imperial Beach Elementary School.

“I believe investing in public education is a lot like personal savings. You have to do it on a regular basis no matter how tough times are,” Carlton said. “With the current turmoil with our economy, this may be the most important time to make sure we are giving schools the tools they need.”

The San Diego County Registrar of Voters Office is still counting absentee ballots. They could make a difference at the Grossmont Union High School District, where the \$417 million Proposition U is clinging to a slim lead of 55.97 percent. To pass, general obligation school bonds need approval from 55 percent of those voting

Grossmont's bond measure may have been hurt by political turmoil.

Trustee Jim Kelly voted against Proposition U and backed two challengers in the school board race who also opposed it. The county Republican Party also opposed the bond measure.

Bennett, the president of School Services, said Grossmont's struggles at the polls do not come as a surprise.

“Bonds lose because there could be labor problems or school board problems. Normally, it's something else happening in the district,” Bennett said.

California voters were kind to nearly all education-related tax measures. Two of three bond measures that required a two-thirds vote also passed, as did 17 of 21 school-parcel taxes, according to unofficial election results.

But all this pending revenue doesn't mean that schools will be flush. Many districts are bracing for midyear budget cuts.

To meet a state budget deficit, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last week proposed \$4.5 billion in cuts to education and social services, in addition to \$4.7 billion in tax increases.

■ Staff writers **Leonel Sanchez** and **Chris Moran** contributed to this report.

Nov. 13

So Goes the Nation

In what appears a harbinger of things to come for higher education, governors of two of the nation's most populous states have rolled out plans that would dramatically reduce funding for colleges and universities — again.

In the past two weeks, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and Gov. David Paterson of New York have both proposed midyear budget cuts that college officials say will cripple already strained higher education systems.

At a news conference Wednesday, Paterson laid out a proposal that would cut \$348 million from the State University of New York and the City University of New York. His plan came on the heels of Schwarzenegger's proposal from earlier this month, which cut \$132 million from public universities and \$332.2 million from community colleges.

The blow from the budget cuts in New York would be softened, Paterson's office suggested, by allowing SUNY and CUNY to raise tuition for just the second time in 13 years. The tuition hikes of \$600 a year, which would be fully implemented in the 2009-10 academic year, would amount to increases of 14 percent and 15 percent at SUNY and CUNY, respectively.

The state would allow both systems to keep 10 percent of tuition revenues this spring, and 20 percent of the increase in 2009-10, generating \$12.4 million for the current academic year. Allowing the universities to retain a portion of new tuition revenues marks a departure from tradition in New York, where the state has typically reduced general fund appropriations by an amount commensurate with any dollars gained by tuition hikes. But the state is still taking the lion's share of the money, which it can then devote to purposes other than education. That doesn't sit well with Shirley Strum Kenny, president of SUNY's Stony Brook campus.

"The notion that students should pay tuition to fill a void rather than to pay for their education — that they in effect are being taxed that money rather than the money coming to the university for their education — is, I think, not going to go down well," Kenny said.

The SUNY Student Assembly issued a statement Wednesday in opposition to the tuition hike.

"New York State is in a tight spot, we understand that completely. But, the state cannot expect SUNY students and their families to bear more of the burden than anyone else," Jacob Crawford, the assembly's president, said in a statement. "While all agencies, including SUNY, are being cut, SUNY students are the only ones being asked to also pay more. The state's purse strings may be tighter than ever, but so are those of our students. Responsible spending paired with a rational tuition plan is the solution, not asking students for what is essentially an additional tax for state coffers."

The plan still requires the approval of New York's Legislature, which will meet in a special session starting November 18. Lawmakers normally wouldn't have considered the 2009-10 budget until January, but they are convening to consider midyear cuts and the 2009 cuts all at once in light of the state's dire fiscal situation. As the center of the nation's financial sector, New York has been particularly hard hit by the current economic crisis.

The cuts in New York also include decreases for SUNY's and CUNY's community colleges, which will see average per-student aid drop by 10 percent, or \$270.

New York's proposed cuts come on top of \$146 million in cuts already endured by the 64-campus SUNY system, and \$50.6 million for the 23-campus CUNY system.

California State May Reduce Enrollment

Schwarzenegger's proposal in California would cut \$66.3 million from California State University, which already took a cut of \$31.3 million earlier this year. The plan has prompted Chancellor Charlie Reed to propose increasing admissions standards across the 23-campus system in order to reduce enrollment by at least 10,000 students.

Currently, only six of California State's campuses have competitive admissions standards beyond the minimum system-wide requirement that students have a 3.0 high school grade point average, according to officials. Reed's proposal to change standards comes at a time when demand is peaking at California State, which has already seen a 20 percent spike in applications this year.

As for the University of California, Schwarzenegger's plan would reduce state support by \$65.5 million, on top of a \$48 million cut approved by lawmakers in September. Gene Lucas, executive vice chancellor of the University of California at Santa Barbara, said the upcoming budget reductions continue a painful cycle in the state's higher education system.

"I've been at the executive vice chancellor position for six, going on seven years, and I've had five years of budget cuts out of that and no year of recovery," he said. "It hasn't been all that much fun."

The University of California will probably be forced to backtrack on last year's decision to enroll an additional 5,000 students, Lucas said. University officials were faced with a politically perilous question last year: Hold enrollment steady and turn away qualified students, or increase enrollment and risk not getting any more funding for it. In the face of Schwarzenegger's new plan, it now seems obvious that growing enrollment wasn't the right move, Lucas said.

"We chose door number two and it wasn't the right one, I think," he said.

California's community colleges are also facing cuts of \$332.2 million, and the timing couldn't be worse, according to Erik Skinner, vice chancellor for fiscal policy for the California Community Colleges system. It's incredibly difficult for colleges that have already made hiring commitments to slam on the brakes at this point and rethink their budgets, he said.

“The state puts districts in an impossible situation when we try to take money midyear,” Skinner said.

Adjuncts Protest

Before plans for further cuts in New York were announced, higher education officials were already bracing for the worst. About three weeks ago, deans and department heads at CUNY’s Queens College were called into an emergency meeting with the president and provost to discuss a series of unpalatable options. Andrew Beveridge left the meeting and began crafting plans to reduce course offerings and grow class sizes in the sociology department, which he chairs. That proposal was rebuked by adjunct faculty, whom Beveridge said were justified in their concerns about losing work.

“They’re going to get screwed,” he said. “It’s terrible.”

James Hoff, a member of an ad hoc group called CUNY Contingency Unite that represents adjunct faculty, said the group was protesting on campuses that appear poised to reduce course offerings.

“Losing one class is actually really devastating for some adjuncts,” he said. “At this point, it’s triage; we’re trying to save jobs.”

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein injected one-time money into the system to help minimize the impact on academic programs and support services, but those efforts don’t appear to be enough to stave off painful changes at this point, Hoff said.

“When Goldstein first made the cuts, he said they were not going to have this kind of effect, and instead they would deal with facilities, deal with library holdings,” Hoff said. “But as they always do when they have budget problems, the adjuncts are the first to go.”

Clemson Requires Furloughs

A number of other states are anticipating or undergoing midyear budget cuts, including South Carolina. In response to budget reductions, Clemson University announced this week that all employees will be required to take mandatory unpaid five-day furloughs. The plan is expected to generate \$5 million, which will only partially address the \$25 million reduction in state support Clemson has incurred over the course of three separate budget cuts this year.

Robin Denny, a spokeswoman for Clemson, said university officials are already concerned another budget cut may come before the end of this fiscal year.

“We’re looking at this as a one time only short-term fix,” she said. “The real work comes between now and July 1.”

The National Conference of State Legislators is currently conducting a 50-state survey to determine the level of midyear budget cuts across the country. Arturo Perez, fiscal analyst for the

group, said higher education officials have been eager to get the results, hoping to compare their own hardships with those of their peers.

“Everybody wants to know ‘how bad is it out there? Are we the only ones in this situation?’ ” he said. “The short answer is no.”

— Jack Stripling

MercuryNews.com

Financially strapped CSU seeks to restrict student access

By Lisa M. Krieger

Article Launched: 11/11/2008

Under a new cost-cutting proposal, California State University may turn away eligible freshmen for the first time in its history.

Chancellor Charles Reed will tell the CSU's board of trustees next week that a bleak budget means the university is no longer able to accept everyone into next fall's freshman class. If his proposals are enacted, schools will give priority to freshmen in their "service area" — meaning San Jose State University would first admit Santa Clara County residents. Outside students would go on a waiting list.

The news comes less than three weeks before the Nov. 30 application deadline at most campuses. It increases competition for college seats at a time when universities are facing their largest applicant pool in recent history.

County students typically make up 48 percent of the entering freshman class at San Jose State, said spokeswoman Pat Lopes Harris. It has already seen a 4 percent increase in freshman applications and a 12 percent increase in community college transfers for fall 2009 compared with the same time last year, so the competition will be stiffer, especially because the overcrowded university was already planning to admit several thousand fewer students.

CSU trustees will discuss the proposal at their Nov. 19 meeting in Long Beach. Reed does not need the board's approval to move forward; rather, he is seeking members' opinions. In a presentation prepared for the meeting, Reed said he would reverse course only if the state Legislature boosts funding to the 23-campus university system, the largest in the nation.

If enacted, the proposal breaks the university's 48-year pledge to accept all students who graduate in the top third of their class. Its motto is "Access to Excellence." The University of California faced a similar crisis in 2004, when it deferred 7,600 eligible students because of budget cutbacks.

Reed argues that access must be "authentic access" — that is, campuses must have enough money to provide "excellence." The California State Education code states that CSU's open policy depends upon adequate funding.

CSU's financial stresses come at a time when the system feels pressure to increase enrollment, because California's future hinges on its ability to educate immigrant, low-income and first-generation students. Moreover, high school class sizes are reaching historic levels, due to the baby boom "echo" generation. And families' financial hardships are predicted to move students from private to public education.

Obvious target

But the state university system is one the few remaining "discretionary" items in the California state budget, so it has become a target in Sacramento's political struggle to close a series of budget gaps.

Last week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced midyear funding cuts of \$66.3 million to CSU. About \$31 million was cut last summer. It is anticipated that the funding target for 2009-2010 will remain at this year's level, with no increases for growing enrollment.

Many students see college as their chance to leave home, and giving enrollment priority to local students could eliminate their chances at San Diego State's beaches or San Francisco State's film program.

"Students are interested in leaving their geographic area," said college counselor Jason Katz of JKatz College Counseling in Redwood City. "Most of my students are interested in the most competitive campuses, which are Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, San Diego and Sonoma State."

Some parents hoped the changes would work in their favor.

Redwood City's Ashleigh Guich wasn't accepted at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo as a freshman — but last year moved to the central coast town to take classes at Cuesta Community College, and plans to reapply as a local resident. "Maybe she'll have a better chance," said her mother, Shirley Guich. "It could work better for her."

In addition to local students, admission would also be guaranteed to nonlocal military veterans and graduates of any of California's community colleges.

CSU campuses will consider out-of-county applicants who were previously enrolled, if they left in good standing. It might also consider those seeking a degree not offered elsewhere; San Diego, for instance, offers marine biology; Humboldt is known for its wildlife management.

Lowest priority would be given to non-California students, including international students. No one would be admitted who is seeking a second bachelor's degree, unless that degree is in engineering or nursing.

Trickle-down effect

Some campuses that are still growing, such as CSU-East Bay in Hayward, would be encouraged to seek the chancellor's permission to draw from outside their geographic area.

"There's a trickle-down effect," said Julie Ball, college counselor for Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton. "Because of the economy, fewer people can afford the privates, so will apply to UCs. Those who might have considered the UCs will apply to the CSUs."

Many students who planned to attend the CSUs may instead aim for community colleges, agreed Martha Kanter, chancellor of Foothill-DeAnza Community College District.

But the community colleges are also facing enrollment caps, she said. "We're in the same boat," said Kanter. "We're cutting back as well."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2008

Contact:
Scott Lay, President/CEO
(916) 213-2232
scottlay@cleague.org

BUDGET CUTS THREATEN OVER 250,000 COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS
New poll finds that 83% of Californians are concerned about cuts to higher education

SACRAMENTO, CA – Budget cuts proposed last week will cause community colleges to turn away 262,845 current students if implemented, analysis released today by the Community College League of California shows. The loss of a quarter of a million students is the equivalent of closing the University of California.

The state’s rising unemployment rate and decisions by the California State University to limit enrollment will likely lead to even more students finding the doors to higher education closed.

California’s community colleges are seeing skyrocketing enrollments as Californians return to college amid high unemployment to retrain for the changing economy. The Department of Finance is now estimating that another 400,000 Californians will be jobless by 2010 as the unemployment increases from 7.7% to 9.7%.

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Full-time equivalent students</u>	<u>Headcount students</u>
Reduce enrollment by 5%	64,070	96,745
Deny additional growth funding for existing unfunded students	110,000	166,100
TOTAL PROJECTED LOST STUDENTS		262,845

Meanwhile, a poll released today by the Public Policy Institute of California finds that 66% of Californians believe community colleges are doing an “excellent” or “good” job, putting the two-year colleges on par with the California State University and University of California. However, 83% of the public is concerned that the state’s budget gap will cause significant spending cuts in higher education, and 68% believe that more

funding is needed to provide “major improvements” to California’s higher education system.

“California’s community colleges are our state’s best economic stimulus,” said Scott Lay, president and chief executive officer of the Community College League of California. “We must decide now to make the investment needed to emerge from this downturn with a more equipped and knowledgeable workforce that translates into quality jobs for our taxpayers and a stronger economy.”

With 110 accredited colleges and more than 200 locations throughout California, community colleges serve over 1.7 million students each term from nearly every community in the state.

The Community College League of California is a nonprofit public benefit corporation whose voluntary membership consists of the 72 local community college districts in California. The League promotes student access and success by strengthening colleges through leadership development, advocacy, policy development and district services.

#



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACTS

Districts: 72 districts
Colleges: 110 colleges

Full-time equivalent students (annual): 1,297,600 (+10.2% Fall 2008)
Headcount enrollment (term): 1,823,600 (+6.2% Fall 2008)

Student demographics:

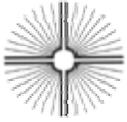
African-American	7.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.9%
Asian	11.9%
Filipino	3.5%
Hispanic	30.0%
Other Non-White	1.9%
Pacific Islander	0.7%
Unknown	8.8%
White Non-Hispanic	35.0%

State-determined funding per full-time student: \$5,845 (Budget Act)
Per-student credit funding: \$4,595*

Proposed Special Session Budget Cuts:

- Eliminate 0.68% cost-of-living adjustment \$39,800,000
 - Reduce general per-student funding by 5% \$292,400,000
- \$332,200,000**

* This is the rate colleges receive for each new student, and with which the enrollment decline is projected on under the general student funding cut.



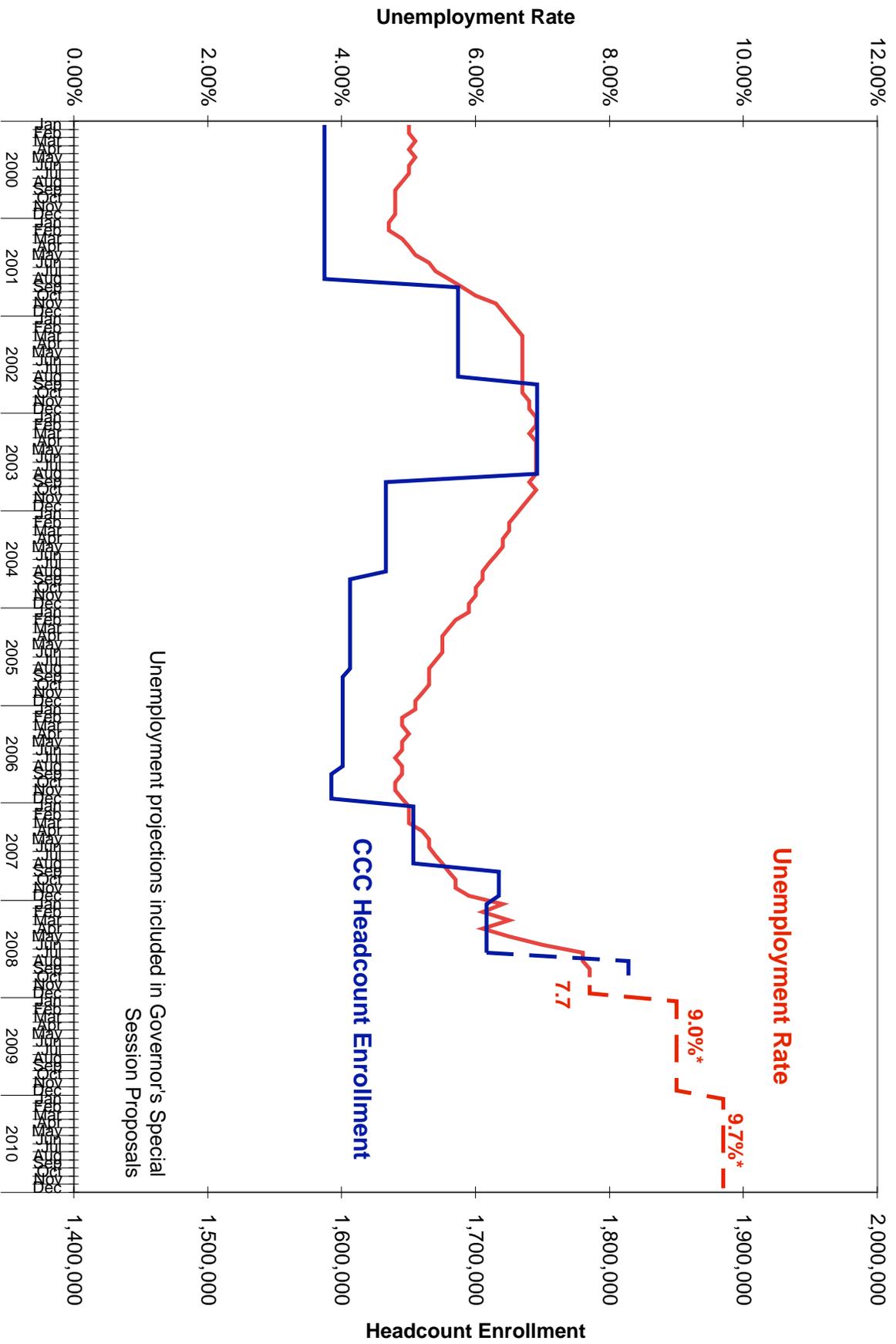
Estimated Impact of Proposed Special Session Cuts

<u>District</u>	<u>Projected Impact</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Projected Impact</u>
Allan Hancock	\$2,800,000	North Orange County	\$9,500,000
Antelope Valley	\$3,300,000	Ohlone	\$2,600,000
Barstow	\$900,000	Palo Verde	\$700,000
Butte	\$3,100,000	Palomar	\$5,600,000
Cabrillo	\$3,500,000	Pasadena Area	\$6,500,000
Cerritos	\$4,900,000	Peralta	\$6,100,000
Chabot-Las Positas	\$5,100,000	Rancho Santiago	\$8,300,000
Chaffey	\$4,300,000	Redwoods	\$1,600,000
Citrus	\$3,300,000	Rio Hondo	\$3,800,000
Coast	\$10,300,000	Riverside	\$7,900,000
Compton	\$1,100,000	San Bernardino	\$4,100,000
Contra Costa	\$9,200,000	San Diego	\$11,700,000
Copper Mt.	\$600,000	San Francisco	\$10,000,000
Desert	\$2,300,000	San Joaquin Delta	\$4,700,000
El Camino	\$5,900,000	San Jose-Evergreen	\$4,500,000
Feather River	\$600,000	San Luis Obispo	\$2,800,000
Foothill-DeAnza	\$9,600,000	San Mateo	\$5,600,000
Gavilan	\$1,600,000	Santa Barbara	\$4,500,000
Glendale	\$4,500,000	Santa Clarita	\$4,300,000
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	\$5,400,000	Santa Monica	\$5,600,000
Hartnell	\$2,000,000	Sequoias	\$2,400,000
Imperial	\$2,000,000	Shasta-Tehama-Trinity	\$2,200,000
Kern	\$6,100,000	Sierra	\$4,500,000
Lake Tahoe	\$700,000	Siskiyou	\$900,000
Lassen	\$600,000	Solano	\$2,700,000
Long Beach	\$6,200,000	Sonoma	\$5,800,000
Los Angeles	\$29,900,000	South Orange	
Los Rios	\$15,400,000	Southwestern	Local tax sustaining
Marin	Local tax sustaining	State Center	\$4,600,000
Mendocino-Lake	\$1,000,000	Ventura	\$8,000,000
Merced	\$2,900,000	Victor Valley	\$7,900,000
Mira Costa	Local tax sustaining	West Valley	\$2,800,000
Monterey Peninsula	\$2,300,000	West Hills	\$1,800,000
Mt. San Antonio	\$8,100,000	West Kern	\$1,200,000
Mt. San Jacinto	\$3,100,000	West Valley-Mission	\$4,800,000
Napa Valley	\$1,800,000	Yosemite	\$5,000,000
		Yuba	\$2,500,000
			<hr/>
			\$332,200,000

* Based on 2007-08 Second Principle Apportionment. Actual amounts would vary based on final calculations.

** Local tax sustaining districts do not receive general support from the state and thus would not be included in a reduction in cost-of-living adjustment or general apportionment.

Community College Headcount Enrollment Tracks Unemployment Rate



Sources: California Employment Development Department, California Community Colleges

SignOnSanDiego.com

Pension shortfall has grown to \$2.7 billion, analysis says

By Matthew T. Hall

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

November 13, 2008

A new analysis of San Diego's pension system shows the gap between promised benefits and money to pay them has widened to \$2.7 billion, wiping out progress the city made toward shoring up a sagging retirement fund.

The shortfall eclipses the \$1.6 billion gap in 2005, at the peak of a city pension crisis that drew national attention. City leaders created the problem by boosting pension benefits in exchange for pension board approval of inadequate funding of the system.

The deficit could require significantly higher city contributions to the pension fund to make up for investment losses, causing much deeper budget cuts than those the City Council took up yesterday. Closures of libraries and recreation centers proposed to cover a \$43 million budget deficit sparked a day of emotional public testimony for a council committee.

Mayor Jerry Sanders said he will now ask city labor unions for major concessions, including delaying or scrapping benefits. City Attorney Michael Aguirre said officials should consider bankruptcy for the city or the retirement system.

City actuary Joseph Esuchanko told the council that the amount owed to retirees in coming decades has grown to \$6.5 billion as of Oct. 31, while the assets have slid to \$3.8 billion.

He said the pension system's liabilities are up nearly \$2 billion since 2005, partly because of a decrease in the system's assumed rate of return on investments, a longer retiree life expectancy and public safety pay increases.

Esuchanko noted that pension officials don't use Oct. 31 data to calculate city pension payments, and they will have different calculations because they "smooth out" market spikes by factoring in multiple years of market activity.

The Mayor's Office has estimated that its annual pension payment in July 2009 will be \$166 million. But Esuchanko told the council, under questioning from Aguirre, that the amount owed could actually be as high as \$251 million.

Aguirre said pension administrators shouldn't count on market gains to boost assets, as they did several years ago.

"You're not going to see some sort of Herculean bounce-back," he said. "That means we're going to fall further and further behind."

Sanders framed his comments on the pension system by talking about options to keep it alive.

"We don't exist to fund employee pensions," Sanders said. "And if the problem gets too large, that's exactly what starts to happen. So we're going to have to start having conversations with our employee unions so we address this together."

Pension administrator David Wescoe declined to comment on Esuchanko's \$2.7 billion estimate, saying retirement officials calculate the figure once a year, on June 30.

"You can't really calculate it seat of the pants," he said.

He acknowledged, "It's an important discussion for the city to understand the potential of their long-term financial commitments to the pension system." But he added, "If you're basing that discussion on an October or November number, and there's still seven months to go in the fiscal year, you can reach the wrong conclusion based on the wrong data, and that is counterproductive."

Aguirre, who will leave office in December when newly elected Jan Goldsmith takes over as city attorney, said San Diego is "hiding the ball," similar to the way it cloaked a mounting pension deficit from bond investors and the public in 2002 and 2003, leading to sanctions for securities fraud.

"What happened is, we suffered a catastrophic loss and everybody is trying to put a Band-Aid on it," Aguirre said. "The last thing in the world we want to do is minimize the problem."

The city's annual pension payment has never exceeded \$163 million, even at the peak of its fiscal crisis.

At that time, the pension deficit was reported as \$1.4 billion because the system used a different formula to calculate it. Esuchanko has recalculated that shortfall at \$1.6 billion to be current with the latest models.

The new five-year financial outlook the Mayor's Office released yesterday shows the annual payment could be \$236 million on July 1, 2010, and \$256 million a year later. That's in a worst-case scenario.

The city also estimated its costs if financial markets recover more quickly and pension officials take steps to reduce expenses. Under this scenario, the city's pension payment would increase to \$199 million July 1, 2010, and \$207 million a year later.

By comparison, this year's pension contribution was \$161.7 million.

Chief Operating Officer Jay Goldstone told the council why the city chose the rosier picture for "scenario one," saying, "We're not assuming in our forecast that the market will fully recover. I think that would be foolish. But there is a chance that there would be some recovery."

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association fund had a pension deficit of \$485 million on June 30. Since then, its investments have lost about \$1.1 billion, but a new pension deficit has not been calculated.

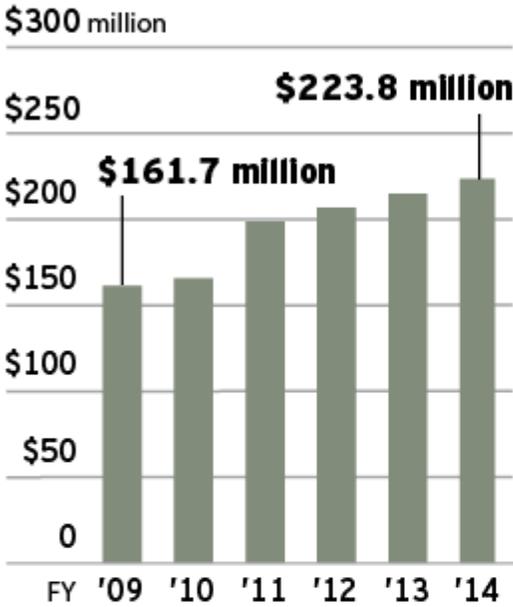
Brian White, chief executive of the association, said the fund has experienced double-digit percentage gains over the past four years, which will help it survive the current economic climate.

"These are significant declines, but anticipated ones, given the current difficulties in the financial markets," he said in a statement. "The markets will recover, and when they do, SDCERA will be well positioned to profit."

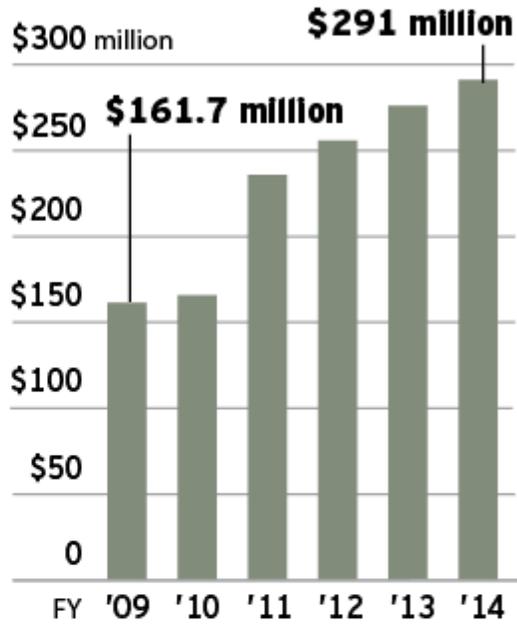
Pension payments and the budget deficit

San Diego looked at two scenarios for its five-year budget outlook, but both showed higher pension payments – and larger deficits as a result.

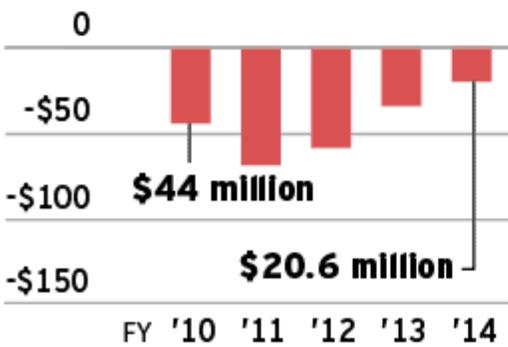
SCENARIO ONE: CITYWIDE PENSION PAYMENT



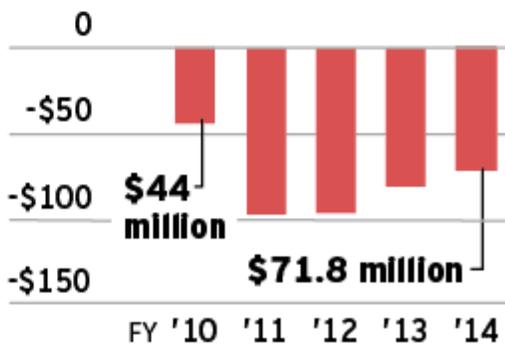
SCENARIO TWO: CITYWIDE PENSION PAYMENT



SCENARIO ONE: GEN. FUND BUDGET DEFICIT*



SCENARIO TWO: GEN. FUND BUDGET DEFICIT*



*If the city makes Mayor Jerry Sanders' proposed budget cuts in the current fiscal year.

SOURCE: City of San Diego

CRISTINA MARTINEZ BYVIK / Union-Tribune

Pension funding

Amount of San Diego's pension deficit in dollars, and percent of funding requirement met.

Oct. 31, 2008: \$2.7 billion,
58 percent funded

June 30, 2008: \$2.2 billion,
66 percent

June 30, 2007: \$1.2 billion,
79 percent

June 30, 2006: \$1.2 billion,
77 percent

June 30, 2005: \$1.6 billion,
65 percent

SOURCE: The city's actuary

Residents sound off on plans for cuts

Sanders, financial advisers say worse times are ahead

By Helen Gao
STAFF WRITER

November 13, 2008

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders' proposal to close seven libraries and 10 recreational facilities to deal with budget problems was decried by upset residents yesterday – but it's just the beginning.

At a City Council committee meeting, Sanders and his financial staff projected worse times ahead as the economy cuts into tax revenues and as the city has to make up for investment losses in the employee pension fund.

If cuts aren't made to close the current \$43 million gap, the shortfall could reach \$131 million in 2011, said city Chief Financial Officer Mary Lewis. Even with the cuts proposed this year, the deficit could grow to \$96.5 million by 2011.

“There are no silver bullets, no rabbits to pull from our hats,” Sanders said. “Our challenge is to tell the public that everyone has to make sacrifices, even the people who complain the loudest. That's the heroism that is called for today.”

The City Council did not make any decisions yesterday and will continue the budget discussion at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

An overflow crowd packed the council chambers to vent anger and frustration about proposed cuts; 50 addressed the council members.

Two speakers expressed support of drastic actions to balance the budget. The rest urged rejection of Sanders' plan to close libraries and recreation centers to save money.

Previously, the mayor has said the facilities would be closed at least a year or two – but his five-year projections assume the facilities would be closed the whole time.

Speakers and council members offered alternative ideas to generate revenue, cut costs and limit service impacts.

Council President Scott Peters and Councilman Tony Young both said it's time to consider charging for parking at the zoo in Balboa Park. Peters said charging for parking at city beaches also should be considered, as well as cutting the pay of city executives.

“I don't think anybody should be untouched,” said Peters, who also tossed out the idea of securing corporate sponsorship to keep libraries open.

Young said his communities are not willing to tolerate any more cuts to programs affecting youths. He suggested exploring assessment districts – where homeowners in a particular area tax themselves – to fund youth programs.

“We have basically cut services every single year,” Young said. “We need to have some new approaches.”

Councilwoman Donna Frye said rather than shutting down 14 restrooms in Mission Bay Park and shoreline parks, the city should eliminate the money spent on removing kelp and “fluffing sand.”

One resident recommended limiting library and recreation center closures to wealthier communities north of Interstate 8, where people are better able to afford books and sports activities. Another suggested alternating library operations so no facility is completely shut down.

Wilbur Smith said he is tired of seeing park and recreation cuts.

“These cuts are slowly dismantling one of the finest park and rec systems in the country. This system took decades to build,” said Smith, chair of the Park and Recreation Board, who spoke as a private citizen.

Larry May said the Azalea Recreation Center is part of the fabric of life in his community, the place where parties and events are held.

“We are asking for our clubhouse to stay open,” May said.

Valorie Matthews told the council the city has no right to shut down the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch library, built with funds donated by the late Edwin Benjamin.

“How dare you consider taking this gift from a private citizen to the people of San Diego and throwing it into the gutter,” Matthews said, her voice rising.

She added she would be willing to do without street sweeping to save the library.

The Beach Reporter

11-13-08

El Segundo News

City Council wrap: Buses and bridges

by Jennifer Evans

(Updated: Thursday, November 13, 2008 10:10 AM PST)

Line 109 to continue

The El Segundo City Council approved an agreement with Beach Cities Transit in the amount of \$137,010 to continue funding Bus Line 109 for the next two years.

According to the staff report, Line 109 replaced MTA Line 439, which ran from South Redondo Beach to LAX, when MTA identified it as “regionally underperforming” and discontinued its service. In May 2006, Beach Cities Transit, a community-based transit system that operates out of the city of Redondo Beach, entered into an agreement with Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo beaches and El Segundo to operate Line 109 on the same route which MTA Line 439 once went. The cost for the city of El Segundo was \$128,000 per year. At that time, Beach Cities Transit expected that Line 109 would qualify for funding from MTA in two years and would no longer require subsidy from any of the beach cities from 2008 on. However, although the gap was reduced by 29 percent, the cost to the city is \$137,010 for two years. The City Council gave its approval based on the report, which stated that ridership of Line 109 has increased an average of 29 percent annually and that even though the number of actual riders is low, Beach Cities Transit expects that number will increase as fuel prices continue to rise.

El Segundo interim Recreation and Parks Director Judy Andoe reported at the Nov. 4 City Council meeting that Line 109 is beneficial to El Segundo; and that increased investment in the use of public transportation provides significant, direct environmental benefits and helps meet national air quality standards.

Firefighter partnership with college

The El Segundo Fire Department will continue its agreement with El Camino College’s In-Service Firefighter Training Program. According to the description of the program, firefighters receive credits from El Camino College for completing in-service fire training courses. The city is also entitled to a portion of state funding received by El Camino College for the firefighter students who are enrolled in the program. The college reimburses El Segundo at a rate of \$2.50 per student per hour, which totals approximately \$30,000 per year. The ESFD has been involved with El Camino College’s fire training program for the last eight years.

Rail crossing

The City Council approved the construction of a pedestrian bridge crossing over 118th Street west of the intersection of Aviation Boulevard where the Metro Green Line is located and near the entrance to Northrop Grumman. Northrop Grumman proposed the project as a result of injury claims by its employees. The company offered \$25,000 toward the project. The council originally approved \$50,000 toward the design of the project. However, after staff's discussions with Northrop Grumman, it became apparent that the city could actually accomplish the design at no cost to the city, and utilize the available and already approved funds to complete the crossing at 118th Street with a more durable material. According to the staff report, the crossing has an estimated life expectancy of 30 years and will significantly improve pedestrian safety. Construction of the project will begin in December and will be completed within 30 working days.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

11/13/08

As the Economic Crisis Hits Home, Colleges Seek Help From Congress

By KELLY FIELD

Congress is crafting a second economic-stimulus bill, and the nation's colleges, hit by the deepening fiscal crisis, want a share of the money.

Over the last few weeks, colleges and their lobbyists have bombarded members of Congress with letters and phone calls seeking money for research, student aid, and infrastructure. Their appeals emphasize the role colleges play in the nation's fiscal health, not only as educators but also as employers and innovators.

Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives hope to bring a second stimulus measure to the floor next week, when lawmakers are expected to return to Washington for a lame-duck session.

But a deal with President Bush remains elusive, and without one, the bill may have to wait until January, when Barack Obama takes office as president. Congress could also opt for a piecemeal approach, passing the portions that Mr. Bush agrees to now, and the remainder next year.

Competing for Aid

Either way, Congress is expected to focus its new spending on food stamps, unemployment benefits, and infrastructure projects. Colleges will have to compete for the remaining aid with hundreds of other supplicants, including the airline industry, homebuilders, and budget-strapped states.

Thirty-nine states are predicting budget shortfalls for the next fiscal year that total more than \$100-billion, according to the Committee for Education Funding, a nonprofit coalition of colleges and other education groups.

But the competition hasn't stopped colleges from seeking a share. Faced with declining endowment income, reduced state support, and more financially needy students, institutions are desperate to avoid drastic cuts in salaries and student aid.

Some college lobbyists see hope in the fact that Rep. George Miller, the California Democrat who is chairman of the House education committee, is playing a key role in negotiations.

"I think it bodes well," said Jennifer T. Poulakidas, vice president for Congressional and governmental affairs at the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

Representative Miller "is a true believer in the importance of investments in science and research to drive the economy," she said.

The state-university association has asked its member institutions to contact their representatives in Congress to request money for student aid and the National Institutes of Health.

Other groups, including the Association of American Universities and the American Association of Medical Colleges, have sent letters seeking more money for research. Letters from both groups highlight the ways colleges contribute to the nation's economy, through work-force training, job creation, and business development.

"As large employers and as primary drivers of our innovation economy, our nation's research universities and their students, faculty, and staff can be valuable components of an economic recovery, in both the short and long terms," said the letter from the Association of American Universities.

The medical-college association's letter goes a step further, citing statistics to quantify its members' economic impact. Medical colleges, it notes, pumped \$451-billion into the economy in 2007, generating three million full-time jobs and more than \$20-billion in state tax revenue.

A Long Wish List

The group also offers the longest wish list of the college associations, requesting \$1.9-billion for the National Institutes of Health, a reversal of cuts in Medicare payments to teaching hospitals, and an expansion of federal Medicaid funds, among other items.

While an increase in federal Medicaid spending would not directly benefit colleges without teaching hospitals, it could have a trickle-down effect, easing the budget demands that have forced state lawmakers to cut spending on public colleges. Medicaid costs represent a large and increasing share of state budgets.

"If the states are taken care of, then it relieves the pressure" on colleges, said Harvey Hollins III, vice president for government and community affairs at Wayne State University, in Michigan. He said his institution was bracing for an expected midyear rescission of up to 4 percent of its state appropriation.

Meanwhile, some groups—including the Association of American Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, are asking Congress to set aside a portion of the bill's infrastructure money for campus construction. Several colleges have put off planned projects because of the tightening of credit markets and the rising cost of capital.

Pleas for More Student Aid

Other groups, including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Student Aid Alliance, a coalition of associations, say Pell Grants must be the top priority.

With more families facing unemployment and foreclosure on their homes, participation in the grant program has spiked, creating a shortfall that is expected to exceed \$5-billion by the end of the 2009 fiscal year. The Student Aid Alliance wants Congress to wipe out that shortfall and provide enough money for a \$500 increase in the maximum award, which is now \$4,731.

Lawmakers are also said to be weighing an increase in federal-loan limits and an extension of the grace period for student borrowers, perhaps to nine months. Congress cut the grace period from nine months to six months in the 1980s, to reduce costs. Now, with the economy creating a gloomy job outlook for college graduates, lawmakers may extend it again.

A Hard Sell

This would be the third time in recent months that Congress has acted to shore up the economy. Lawmakers approved a \$700-billion bailout bill for the banking sector last month and a \$168-billion stimulus bill in February that included federal income-tax-rebate checks. But the economy has continued to worsen, and lawmakers have been inundated with pleas for help from every corner of the economy.

With so many urgent needs confronting Congress, colleges know they aren't likely to be a top priority.

“There are so many people going to the trough who have legitimate needs that it's going to be hard,” said Cynthia A. Littlefield, director of federal relations at the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

TheNewsTribune.com

Audit unearths problem at Tacoma Community College Manager resigns after money found misappropriated in food services

IAN DEMSKY; ian.demsky@thenewstribune.com

Published: November 13th, 2008

At least \$14,588 in public money was misappropriated from Tacoma Community College's food services operation, a state audit released this week found.

The food services manager questioned in the audit was put on leave last December and resigned in January. The News Tribune isn't naming her because she hasn't been charged with a crime.

At the request of auditors, TCC waited until October to file a police report, a spokesman said.

"We'd like to commend the state Auditor's Office for detecting the problem," said TCC spokesman Dan Small. "We appreciate the work they do to protect public funds."

An investigation by Tacoma police is just getting rolling, police spokesman Mark Fulghum said Wednesday.

The college's previous seven audits showed no problems. But this time, while going through the food service books, state auditors discovered days on which abnormal amounts of money had been voided without supporting documentation, records show.

They also found evidence showing that detailed reports provided to them had been altered, the audit findings said. "The food service manager stated she had used voids to conceal losses," the report said.

It was a bad practice to have a single employee counting the cash, performing voids and reconciling the daily transactions, auditors said. They recommended stronger internal controls and oversight to protect public funds.

The college has since hired a contractor, Sodexo, which has 6,000 clients in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, to manage its food service, including money handling.

Community college offers more courses online

November 13, 2008 - 5:31PM

Mike Wilder / Times-News

More students at Alamance Community College are taking classes online, and that's not an isolated trend.

"We have seen a national trend toward distance learning," said Don Miller, who teaches English at the college and also coordinates its distance learning program.

What was once seen as a novelty is now a proven means of teaching and learning, Miller said. He cited the University of Phoenix, which offers extensive online education, as a prominent example.

"Initially there was some hesitancy," he said, but "it has been proven to be legitimate."

Along with reassurance that online instruction is effective, convenience for students is a major factor. That combination, Miller said, has meant a large increase in the number of Alamance Community College students taking courses online.

In fall 2007, Miller said, 1,133 Alamance Community College students were taking online courses, up from 733 the previous year. Both figures include classes offered exclusively online and in a hybrid format that includes some online instruction and some time on campus.

In 2002, the number was 355. All of those courses were offered exclusively online.

Miller said the flexibility of online classes means "you have a group of students who can go to school who wouldn't have been able to before." He mentioned single parents and others with tight schedules who may only be able to devote late-night and early-morning hours to getting more education.

He said distance learning accounts for almost 11 percent of the college's total enrollment.

While some subjects are more conducive than others to online learning, Miller said even some hands-on courses of study - such as the horticulture and culinary programs - have offered some classes online.

It is possible for students to earn certificates online, he said, in areas such as accounting, word processing, medical transcription and computer software.

Along with an increase in the number of online classes, there is more variety in how the courses are presented as a result of more advanced technology. Those advances include use of blogs, podcasts and instant messaging.

Miller thinks the hybrid format will grow in popularity.

"If the students are lost, and need to ask you a question face to face, they can do that," he said, during the on-campus part of a hybrid course.

The college is advertising spring 2009 hybrid courses with a flier that says "Save gas."

Martin Nadelman, the college's president, said faculty members are working together to offer classes that will allow students to study full time but come to campus only one or two days a week.

The college offers about 109 courses online. About a third of the online offerings are currently in the hybrid format.

11/17/08

Obstacles to better schools

When we have to make a choice in public schools, should it benefit the children or the adults? Better yet: Why should we even ask this question?

In the nation's capital, which has fostered one of the costliest and worst of all school systems, a passionate schools superintendent, Michelle Rhee, is confronting both questions, head on. Her No. 1 obstacle, she says, is the holy grail of teachers unions: tenure.

As she told The New York Times, tenure may be good for adults who go into teaching to get long summer vacations and great benefits, but it hurts children by making it harder to fire incompetent teachers.

This is true not just in the worst urban school districts, like Washington, but in the best districts. In both instances, the legal ordeal of firing a teacher costs so much that it happens rarely. In New York City, the school system finds it more cost-effective to put the most harmful teachers in a "rubber room," where they while away their days at public expense, but removed from children.

Here is the dirty secret of school districts burdened by underperforming or incompetent teachers. If they could get rid of tenure, the opportunity for change could be transformational.

That's the kind of change Rhee wants for Washington schools. Rather than take a hostile approach, she says she would use foundation money, which she says is available, to give teachers raises of up to \$40,000 a year if they are willing to give up tenure.

The Washington Teachers Union, unsurprisingly, is declining the offer. George Parker, its president, says he has kept an open mind to Rhee's proposals, but he polled union members and they are 3-1 opposed to giving up tenure. Parker says there are other reasons for the district's problems, including chaotic management.

Rhee wouldn't disagree with that. In the 18 months in her job, according to the Times, she has fired or forced out hundreds of administrators, principals and paraprofessionals, and 216 teachers who lacked full credentials. But that isn't enough.

She says students can't wait for accountable teachers while adults argue, so she is moving ahead. The district intends to dismiss even tenured teachers by [training](#) principals to use a procedure that gives teachers with performance problems a 90-day mandatory improvement plan; those who don't progress face possible dismissal.

A possible middle ground is one used in New York, and supported by both the administration and the union. The seniority system no longer forces principals to accept teachers who are not

well suited for certain jobs, and teachers are not be forced to go to those schools. Rhee has proposed the program for Washington.

Rhee says she wants Washington's teachers to be highly compensated, and has proposed salaries of \$130,000, with bonuses, for outstanding performers. But she also wants accountability for results.

Educators across the land are watching to see what she achieves, and whether the winners will be adults or the children. Or both.

Nov. 17

Record Year* for Foreign Student Enrollment

More foreign students came to the United States in the 2007-8 academic year than ever before. But while there were some gains in the core undergraduate and graduate populations, particularly at the graduate level, the record result was driven largely by dramatic increases in the numbers of international students employed off-campus through optional practical training (OPT) and those enrolled in non-degree and intensive English programs. Meanwhile, the number of Americans studying abroad continues steadily growing, according to the latest installment of Open Doors, an annual survey conducted by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

In total, the data show a 7 percent increase in international students in the United States over a one-year period, the 623,805 total besting the previous record of 586,323 from 2002-3. However, as an important asterisk to the data, the percentage increase for undergraduate enrollment was 2.2, for graduate 4.8, and for “other” (non-degree, intensive English, and OPT) 28.5 percent. (Students on optional practical training are in the labor market, employed in short-term positions related to their field of study; they remain on a student visa through the “practical training” period. Although there are exceptions, they often have minimal contact with their host academic institutions while on OPT, and in many cases have in fact already completed their courses of study there.)

In raw numbers, foreign undergraduate enrollment climbed by 5,310 students, graduate enrollment by 12,554 students, and the “other” category by 22,957.

International graduate enrollment bested previous highs, but undergraduate enrollment has not recovered from post 9-11 drops (per the chart below).

A huge — 36.3 percent — increase in OPT numbers over one year, from 41,660 to 56,766, is particularly striking, and is likely due both to increased interest in and awareness of OPT, and better monitoring of these students when they leave campus for their work assignments, said Peggy Blumenthal, IIE’s executive vice president. In other words, some of the reported gains are probably attributable not to an actual increase in students coming to the United States, but to more accurate counting of them.

“I think the 56,000 [figure] is correct but I think the previous years may have been under-counted,” said Blumenthal, who added that the number of students in OPT is likely to continue growing since the U.S. government extended the maximum OPT period from 12 to 29 months for science, technology, math and engineering students in April (too late, Blumenthal said, to have a direct effect on the figures for this survey).

Since these students on OPT are typically detached from their colleges, off campus working rather than participating in academic programs on a campus, “There’s been discussion of should

we even be counting them at all in Open Doors,” Blumenthal said. However, she pointed out that they’re included in the U.S. government database that tracks international students and are “here under a student visa. And OPT is practical training related to your academic work, so they are learning. They’re just not learning in the classroom.”

Foreign enrollment in intensive English programs grew by 23.5 percent, to 24,468 students, and it increased in non-degree programs by 16.7 percent, to 22,369.

To put some historical perspective on the growth of the “other” category, “In recent years, percentage growth in the [intensive English language] and OPT sectors has exceeded growth in international student enrollment at graduate and undergraduate institutions,” said Victor C. Johnson, senior adviser for public policy at NAFSA: Association of International Educators. “That growth is very welcome. It’s important to have students studying intensive English in this country and it’s important to be graduating our international students into jobs in OPT in our economy. But we do need to also disaggregate that data and see that the growth in the enrollment in degree-granting institutions is not as dramatic, particularly at the undergraduate level, and that is an indication that we have a lot more work to do.”

Blumenthal pointed to promise for growth in the core undergraduate and graduate programs in future years, pointing out that not only are intensive English programs gateways to degree programs for many students, but also that the number of new international students is up by about 10 percent for the second year in a row, “and new enrollments have nothing to do with OPT.”

“That means if this trend continues we’re going to probably be at a record high next year.”

A “snapshot” survey of this fall’s enrollment trends conducted by eight higher education associations, including IIE and NAFSA, found that overall foreign student enrollment increased at 57 percent of 778 institutions that responded (16 percent reported declines and 27 percent reported flat numbers). The survey, which is separate from the much more comprehensive Open Doors, could provide a first hint of next November’s Open Doors numbers, for 2008-9.

Change in Foreign Students in the United States, by Academic Level

Year	Undergrad	% Change	Graduate	% Change	Other	% Change
2000-1	254,429	7.3	238,497	9.3	54,941	-7.3
2001-2	261,079	2.6	264,749	11	57,168	4.1
2002-3	260,103	-0.4	267,876	1.2	58,344	2.1
2003-4	248,200	-4.6	274,310	2.4	49,999	-14.3
2004-5	239,212	-3.6	264,410	-3.6	61,417	22.8
2005-6	236,342	-1.2	259,704	-1.8	68,707	11.9
2006-7	238,050	0.7	264,288	1.8	80,646	17.4
2007-8	243,360	2.2	276,842	4.8	103,603	28.5

According to the Open Doors data, there were increases in the numbers of international students from eight of the top 10 countries of origin, including a 12.8 percent rise from India, 19.8 percent from China, and 10.8 percent from South Korea (the top three countries of origin, respectively). The number from No. 4 Japan declined 3.7 percent and the number from No. 6 Taiwan dipped 0.3 percent. Fueled by a [Saudi government-sponsored scholarship program launched in 2005](#), the number from No. 9 Saudi Arabia continued rising, by 25.2 percent this year. Saudi Arabia cracked the top 10 for the first time since 1982-3.

The number of students from No. 13 Vietnam increased hugely, by 45.3 percent. Nigeria, at No. 20, replaced Kenya as the only African country in the top 20. “The problems continue to be with Africa, where the economies of those countries just mean that it’s very hard for them to send folks abroad and there are fewer U.S. government-funded programs to support them. Years ago, there used to be some major U.S. AID funding for what they called participant training and now that money is largely gone,” Blumenthal said.

For the seventh year in a row, the University of Southern California was the leading host institution. Behind it were New York University, Columbia University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Purdue University.

Study Abroad

In terms of U.S. students studying abroad, 8.2 percent growth in 2006-7 followed an 8.5 percent increase [the year before](#). The new total, 241,791, represents a 143 percent increase from just below 100,000 a decade earlier. (While Open Doors data for international students is from 2007-8, the numbers for study abroad are from 2006-7.)

Europe remained the biggest host destination, attracting 57.4 percent of all U.S. students, although the share going there has decreased by about 7 percentage points over the past decade. The United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France and China were the top five host countries.

The proportion of students going on short-term programs (lasting between two and eight weeks) continues to rise, from 52.8 percent in 2005-6 to 55.4 percent in 2006-7, while the share on quarter- or semester-length programs declined slightly (from 41.7 percent to 40.2 percent), as did the proportion on academic or calendar year programs (from 5.5 to 4.4 percent). Many universities have been investing heavily in short-term, faculty-led programs of late.

There were significant jumps in the numbers of students going to certain destinations outside Western Europe, including, among the top 20 host countries, No. 5 China (up 25.3 percent), No. 12 Argentina (up 26.2 percent), No. 14 South Africa (up 28 percent), No. 17 Ecuador (up 29.6 percent) and No. 20 India (up 24.2 percent). The number heading to the Middle East rose by 6.9 percent, but Americans studying in that region still represent only 1.2 percent of the study abroad pie.

In terms of majors, there’s measurable progress in science and engineering, where study abroad participation has traditionally been weak, with increases of 14.5 percent in the physical and life sciences, 16.1 percent in the health sciences, and 13.1 percent in engineering. The number from math and computer science increased 8.1 percent, and, from agriculture, 25.1 percent. The

number studying abroad from the humanities stayed flat and the figure actually fell for foreign language students, by 1.4 percent.

In terms of raw numbers, the top five sending institutions were New York University, Michigan State University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and the University of Georgia. Another 18 colleges, mostly smaller ones, reported sending more than 80 percent of their students abroad: Arcadia, Elon, and Lee Universities; Austin, Bates, Centre, Colorado, Earlham, Goshen, Goucher, Hartwick, Kalamazoo, Rhodes, Saint Olaf, and Wofford Colleges; and Universities of Dallas, Minnesota Morris, and Saint Thomas.

“The only really discouraging set of numbers are the diversity numbers,” said Blumenthal. Study abroad has been and is dominated by white students, who made up 81.9 percent of study abroad students in 2006-7 and 83.9 percent a decade earlier. In 2006-7, 65.1 percent of study abroad students were women, compared to 64.9 percent in 1996-7.

“For as long as we’ve been collecting data,” said Blumenthal, “the diversity of those studying abroad has not really changed at all.”

— Elizabeth Redden

LA Times.com

Compton College benefiting from takeover by El Camino

After the campus was stripped of accreditation, many were skeptical of nearby school's plan to step in. But students, staff and the community are excited by the ensuing changes, and enrollment is up.

By Alicia Lozano
November 16, 2008

Two years after Compton College was stripped of its accreditation, a multimillion-dollar effort is underway to reestablish the two-year school as an institution of higher learning.

El Camino College, which has assumed management of Compton, has spent \$41 million in local bond money to renovate facilities and recently hired three new deans to revamp a threadbare curriculum. The vocational division, which offered 12 programs in practical skills, such as welding and cosmetology, has added two new disciplines -- aerospace and robotics.

When Compton lost its accreditation in 2006, the campus was crumbling under the pressure of state audits that unearthed financial fraud, fake enrollments and missing computer equipment. El Camino in nearby Torrance stepped in, agreeing to oversee the budget while working with a state-appointed special trustee.

Officially, Compton College no longer exists. It's a satellite of El Camino and now goes by the lengthy name of El Camino College Compton Community Education Center.

Many at El Camino cautioned their administration against rushing to the aid of Compton. Some students were worried that they would not have a choice between campuses, while others feared the location, according to Thomas Fallo, president of El Camino.

But Fallo was more concerned that the loss of a college would harm the quality of life in Compton and neighboring communities. He said he did not hesitate to encourage a skeptical Board of Trustees to unilaterally support a partnership with the troubled school.

A lingering stereotype continues to haunt the Compton campus. Rob Pitts, 24, the student body president, said some members of the El Camino administration brought negative impressions with them to the school.

"I have to make sure" that people "are treated like students, not inner-city hoodlums," he said. "We have a stereotype that we're thugs or criminals, but we're here for a reason."

After El Camino assumed control, the college entered what Ann Garten, spokeswoman for El Camino, called the triage stage. Compton's facilities were in bad shape, with leaky roofs and cracked walls. Fallo noticed that students in the area did not seek out other community colleges as an alternative to Compton. They just stopped going to college.

But recent experiences of two Compton residents -- Brian Turner, 22, and his sister, Twana Turner, 24 -- are more encouraging.

Four years ago, they went to Compton College hoping to enroll for the fall term. They found annoyed and confused students waiting in a six-hour registration line and academic advisors who weren't familiar with graduation requirements. Despite a family connection to the school -- their father is the men's basketball coach -- they got jobs at a mall instead.

But when El Camino took over, the siblings decided to give the institution a second chance.

"When I came here two years ago, all I did was complain and complain," Brian Turner said. "But now it's starting to feel like a campus, like a university."

Several El Camino administrators said that resuscitating the campus proved beneficial to El Camino as well, which was able to expand its nursing program to include a licensed vocational nursing department.

Now El Camino has one of the largest nursing programs in the state, according to Fallo. Students go back and forth between the two campuses, taking advantage of small class sizes in Compton and high-tech labs at El Camino.

Cosmetic upgrades also have given the campus a fresh feel. The renovated gym smells like a new car. Once comparable to an urban boxing center, the interior sparkles with \$100,000 of improvements over the exposed plumbing and dim lighting of previous years, said Rodney Murray, dean of vocational education.

Murray was appointed in June along with Susan Devers, dean of academic programs and Jane Harmon, dean of academic affairs.

The cafeteria had been closed so long that even Murray, a faculty member since 1994, couldn't remember the last time it was open. But he did remember that it had a leaky roof and poor refrigeration.

Today the cafeteria sparkles with new stainless steel appliances. Hamburgers and French fries sizzle on display, while ice cream stays cold near candy and sodas. A projector blares MTV in an adjoining lounge.

"We want to encourage students to build a relationship with the institution, making this a second home," Devers said.

School officials say that from last fall to this year, enrollment has increased from 3,400 to 4,600 - a jump of 33%.

Administrators partly credit the increase to improved ties between the college and the community, which was initially cynical about the takeover. Provost Lawrence Cox regularly holds meetings with residents and local businesses to keep the city updated on campus affairs.

Other innovations continue. The college recently poured \$100,000 from its general fund toward faculty development. Professors are now expected to include learning objectives on their syllabus, something that was not mandatory previously.

Cox is also pushing for the development of "smart classrooms" equipped with current technology to test whether students understand a lesson.

"If students are having trouble, we need to intervene right then," Cox said. "We don't need to wait until the middle of the semester when they're lost or at the end of the semester when they've failed."

Murray is reaching out to the business community for support. He hopes to form partnerships between the college's vocational schools and the city of Compton's professional companies.

Compton could regain accreditation in 2013 at the earliest, officials estimated. Even though some Compton residents were initially dismayed at the loss of the school's independence, many are now hopeful that it is on the road to redemption.

"The mood is starting to change," Fallo said. "I have seen more of the students and community coming together to reach the understanding that, through time, this will work."

Deficit is clear, remedy is not

Solutions raise new dilemmas

By Steve Wiegand

Published: Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008 | Page 8A

It's a deceptively simple problem: Match how much money state government takes in with how much it spends.

But the devil, as the saying goes, is in the details. And if there's one thing California government abounds in, it's devilish details: more than 150 agencies and departments populated by more than 200,000 employees carrying out uncounted programs that serve more than 37 million people.

If you want to pay for all those programs, you have to raise more revenue than the state has now, or is likely to have. Conversely, if you don't want to raise revenue, you have to cut into or abolish many of those programs.

Simple, at least to define. To solve it, however, is a lot more complex.

Depending on whose numbers you use, California is facing a budget deficit of from \$24.2 billion to \$27.8 billion over the next 19 months.

To close the gap, legislators and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger are mulling over – and arguing about – a host of possible ways to increase revenue and cut spending.

Here, in nutshell form, are just some of the possibilities and their potential effects.

CUTTING SPENDING

Schwarzenegger has proposed \$4.5 billion worth of spending cuts in the current budget. About \$3.8 billion of it is in these four areas:

SCHOOLS

The governor wants to cut about \$2.2 billion from elementary and high schools (about 4.2 percent of their total budget) and about \$300 million from community colleges (5.2 percent of their budget). Schwarzenegger also proposes to relax some state regulations to give local districts more flexibility in making the cuts.

But school officials say it would be nearly impossible to make that deep a cut midway through the school year, because districts already have signed contracts, set staff levels and class size, and started programs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recommends that the cuts be reduced to \$1 billion by rescinding a small cost-of-living increase for K-12, raising community college per-unit fees from \$20 to \$26, deferring some maintenance and delaying the purchase of some instructional materials.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The governor proposes to cut state grants to the elderly, blind and disabled from \$870 a month to \$830 a month for individuals. He also would reduce grants and eligibility for welfare, and would restrict access to services for shut-ins. That would save \$783 million.

The legislative analyst recommends a less drastic package of about \$250 million in cuts.

STATE PAYROLL

Rather than laying off state workers, Schwarzenegger wants to furlough workers one day a month and take away two of their 13 fixed holidays. That would amount to a 4.6 percent pay cut and save the state \$320 million.

The legislative analyst has no recommendation to counter Schwarzenegger's. But state workers have protested that it's unfair that they would be subject to any tax hikes that are approved and have their salaries cut.

LOCAL MASS TRANSIT

The governor proposes cutting state assistance to local mass transit programs by \$230 million. The Legislative Analyst's Office suggests grabbing revenue not being used by the Department of Motor Vehicles (\$55 million) and redirecting some funds paid by Indian casinos for transportation purposes to the state's general fund (\$62.9 million).

Local transit officials point out that the budget already diverts \$1.7 billion from the state's Public Transportation Account to pay for other programs.

RAISING REVENUE

INCREASE SALES TAX

The governor has proposed raising the state's general sales tax rate of 7.25 percent to 8.75 percent for three years. (That doesn't include local governments' additions, which already bring the total to as much as 9.25 percent in some parts of the state.)

The boost would increase state revenue by an estimated \$10.9 billion over the next 18 months – and would add \$375 to the price of a \$25,000 car.

California has the highest base sales tax rate of any state, according to the Federation of Tax Administrators, and Californians spent \$1,039 per capita in 2005 on state and local sales taxes, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. That's 13th among 50 states. The sales tax was last increased in 1991, by 1.25 percent.

Proponents of a sales tax hike contend it's the fastest way to raise a significant amount of money. Opponents point out it's a "regressive" tax that hurts poorer taxpayers more because the rate is the same for everyone, meaning it is a higher percentage of their income.

EXTEND SALES TAX

While other states apply their sales taxes to as many as 160 services, California's sales tax applies almost exclusively to "tangible personal property" other than most food and prescription drugs.

Schwarzenegger has proposed extending the sales tax to a range of services and entertainment venues that include veterinary services, vehicle, furniture and appliance repair, and golf courses, sporting events and amusement parks.

The administration estimates that would add about \$1.5 billion to state coffers over the next year and a half.

The proposal not only would give the state more money now, but would soften the blow when the rate increase expired in three years by broadening the sales tax base.

But it also raises a question of fairness: Why golf but not bowling? Why amusement parks and not movies?

INCOME TAX SURCHARGE

As alternatives to the governor's proposals, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office has suggested other options, including a 5 percent surcharge added to the final liability of income tax payers.

That would raise \$2.25 billion in revenue, and unlike sales taxes, the surcharge could be deducted on federal income tax returns. Since it's based on income, it would fall less on poorer Californians.

But it also could exacerbate the state's over-reliance on a very small percentage of taxpayers to foot a very large percentage of the income tax bill.

RAISE THE CAR TAX

Virtually the first thing Schwarzenegger did when taking office in 2003 was to cut the vehicle license fee (the part of registration fees that's determined by the value of the vehicle) from 2 percent to 0.65 percent. That rolled back the average fee from \$223 to \$73.

The legislative analyst estimates that raising the rate to 1 percent would generate \$1.6 billion in the next fiscal year.

But Schwarzenegger has been leery about rolling back the first promise he kept as governor. Besides, because of a complicated deal worked out with local governments in 2004, the governor would need legislative or voter approval – or both – to restore the rate.

CLOSE LOOPHOLES

In April, the Legislative Analyst's Office produced a list of \$2.7 billion worth of "tax expenditure programs" – a term for tax credits and exemptions – that lawmakers might consider eliminating. For example, reduce the \$294 credit for each dependent child on personal income tax forms to the \$94 that single taxpayers get.

Proponents argue it's unfair to give tax breaks to some, such as the elderly or people with children, without regard to whether they need it or not.

Legislators did close a small \$21 million loophole for buyers of boats, planes and recreational vehicles this year. But Republican legislators so far have balked at closing anything with a larger price tag, contending that cutting a tax break is tantamount to raising a tax.

RAID SPECIAL FUNDS

Over the past 20 years, voters have approved ballot measures that require significant amounts of various tax revenue to be spent only on specific programs, or lock in minimum levels of state spending on specific programs.

These range from 1988's Proposition 98, which locked in about 40 percent of the state's general operating budget for schools, to Propositions 99 (1988) and 10 (1998), which required nearly \$1 billion a year from cigarette taxes be spent on anti-tobacco education, health care for the poor and early childhood development programs.

Easing the requirements to spend the money only on specific categories would give legislators and the governor more wiggle room in producing a budget each year. But at least some of the changes would require voter approval, which means going back to the ballot at the special election the governor is expected to call for this spring.

Cal State System Threatens Enrollment Cuts

By ERIC KELDERMAN

California State University will cut off applications to most of the system's 23 campuses on November 30 and reduce its enrollment by 10,000 students next fall unless state lawmakers can provide extra money for the system, its chancellor announced on Monday.

The chancellor, Charles B. Reed, told reporters that cutting enrollments systemwide would be unprecedented but necessary if state appropriations for the system remain at the same level as in the 2007-8 budget cycle. The state is facing a budget shortfall estimated at \$11-billion for this fiscal year. Lawmakers have already cut \$246-million from Cal State's 2008-9 budget, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, has proposed an additional midyear reduction of \$66-million.

Mr. Reed is scheduled to present his proposal to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, for "advice and input," but he said he has the authority to enforce the enrollment caps without the board's approval. At a news conference on Monday, three trustees, including Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, a Democrat, signaled that Mr. Reed had their support and said it was time for the Legislature and governor to meet the university's needs for more money.

"The folks in Sacramento have to face up to problems in front of them. There are no more workarounds left," said one of the trustees, William Hauck.

While students and faculty members were organizing protests against the proposed enrollment cuts and other possible measures, it was unclear what the real effect of the plan would be. The 10,000 students who could be shut out next year represent nearly 2.2 percent of the system's current enrollment of nearly 460,000.

Admission Secure for Some

Undergraduate students who are already enrolled and in good standing are guaranteed to be readmitted. All qualified applicants seeking to enroll as freshmen who live in the designated service area of a particular campus would also be guaranteed admission, as well as all qualifying California community-college students who have completed at least 60 transferable semester credits and have a 2.0 grade-point average—as long as they applied before the November 30 deadline at most campuses.

All campuses would be required to stop admitting students by March 1, 2009, but in some cases, admissions offers could be made "provisional, subject to rescission," according to materials that will be considered by the Board of Trustees.

The universities would also be allowed to make exceptions for certain students: "A good person that is a musician or in the theater will probably get some special consideration," Mr. Reed said. That group "will include athletes, men and women," he said.

The first-time students most likely not to be accepted if enrollments are capped next year would be California residents who want to attend a Cal State campus outside of their region, as well as out-of-state and foreign applicants, said Mr. Reed.

The numbers of students who could be denied admission may seem relatively small, but the overall effect of budget cuts would fall most heavily on campuses that have high percentages of

poor and minority students, said David Bradfield, a professor of music at Cal State's Dominguez Hills campus and vice president of the faculty association.

Faculty members and students are planning to hold a vigil outside the trustees' meeting to protest the possibility of employee layoffs and other cuts that could limit the availability of some courses.

Faculty and staff members are also concerned that the system could demand pay cuts. A provision in the employees' collective-bargaining agreement allows Cal State to force salary negotiations if the state does not provide the amount of appropriations required by the budget formula, said Alice Sunshine, a spokeswoman for the California Faculty Association.

ContraCostaTimes.com

Cal State plan startles community colleges

By Matt Krupnick

Article Launched: 11/17/2008

Community college leaders are worried a California State University plan to turn away as many as 10,000 students next year could inundate two-year schools that already can't handle spiking enrollment.

Cal State trustees will discuss Wednesday whether to limit admissions more strictly than ever before. The 23-campus system simply won't be able to handle the 460,000 or so students it has now if state funds drop next year, Chancellor Charles Reed told reporters Monday.

"We cannot admit additional students without adequate resources," he said.

Reed said he hopes many of the students who are turned away will attend community colleges and transfer to a Cal State campus after completing their first two years of school.

But community colleges have their own severe problems, including droves of new students forced back to school by the economy at the same time the schools are dropping classes and student services.

If additional budget cuts are imposed next year, the system could be forced to turn away more than 250,000 students, said Diane Woodruff, chancellor of the 110-campus community college network. Taking on an additional 10,000 students would be nearly impossible, she said.

"We are at our breaking point already," Woodruff said in an interview. The state's community colleges serve about 2.7 million students. "We already are serving 100,000 students we're not being paid for."

The massive two-year college system was hit twice this year: 10 percent more students — the colleges were paid for only 2 percent growth — and a \$290 million funding cut. The governor has proposed trimming \$332 million more from the colleges in coming months.

Community colleges have prided themselves on their open enrollment, meaning nearly every Californian can attend. But the economic clouds have darkened that policy, and unemployed workers who once could count on community colleges for job training could be out of luck after instructors and courses are cut.

"You really can't expect them to take on more students," said John Douglass, a researcher at UC Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education. "You're going to find a lot of people wanting to enter higher education who can't, and it's just going to add to our economic problems."

That phenomenon is developing at colleges around the state. At Sacramento City College, for example, some academic departments are going to be smaller next year, meaning students won't be able to get the courses they need to graduate in time, said student Troy Carter, vice president of the statewide student senate.

"It's just going to be thousands of students competing for a few seats," he said. "It's slowing all of us down."

Cal State leaders said they have no choice but to hope community colleges can be their safety net. The university has sustained too many blows over the past two years to maintain the status quo, said Trustee William Hauck.

"There really are no more workarounds left," he said. With more cuts, "we will be diminishing the value of every degree that comes out of this system, and we will not do that."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

11-21-08

California's Community Colleges Struggle to Recruit and Retain President

As many 2-year chiefs near retirement, the leadership void could become a national problem

By KATE MOSER

A year and half has passed since California's Riverside Community College district had a permanent chancellor. Two searches and two interim leaders later, the district's continuing quest for a permanent chancellor reflects a statewide problem of recruiting and retaining two-year-college executives.

Smaller applicant pools and many vacant positions suggest that the risks of being a community-college leader in California can outweigh the rewards. The shortage of leaders could become a national problem, as many two-year college chiefs across the country are starting to retire at the same time.

California is making some strides in filling its open presidential seats, with a total of 13 openings out of 139 positions, according to the most recent list compiled by Donald F. Averill, a former San Bernardino Community College district chancellor who tracks presidential openings in partnership with the Community College League of California. The state has averaged about 40 openings per year for the past three years, with about 15 of those openings carrying over a year or more.

The situation is exacerbated in California because of its high cost of living, complex laws, and strong unions, says George R. Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges and former president of Palomar College, in San Marcos: "That makes it difficult to attract leaders into that state."

Relatively low pay can't help, either. Most community-college leaders' salaries continue to lag behind their counterparts with similar responsibilities at four-year institutions, according to *The Chronicle's* annual report on executive compensation. Median total compensation for community-college leaders is now about \$278,000.

Despite high housing prices and the fact that it boasts the biggest two-year-college system in the country, California often lags in pay. Out of the 18 California community colleges and systems included in this year's report, just six leaders' pay was higher than the median for all community colleges. The state has only one leader among the nation's 10 highest-paid community-college leaders. By comparison, Florida has four.

The reasons for that difference in pay are numerous, including state financing, but experts say California, like other states across the country, will have to work hard to develop the next generation of leaders for its community colleges by training more leaders from within and tapping executives from outside the state.

"We do have a tremendous number of CEO vacancies in California, and we would welcome CEO's from other states to apply for the many vacancies we have," said Diane C. Woodruff, interim chancellor of the California Community Colleges System who took over the post in 2007 after leading the Community College League of California and serving as the superintendent and president of the Napa Valley Community College District.

Shrinking Pools

Applicant pools for the top jobs at California's two-year colleges have shrunk in recent years, recruiters say, and fewer potential leaders are willing to relocate in an uncertain economy for a volatile job that often comes with a state budget in turmoil and plenty of local politics.

"I don't know of any big pools these days," says Kevin Ramirez, a recruiter whose firm, Community College Search Services, has run five chancellor searches in California in the past 10 months, including the search for the top position in the California Community Colleges System. That job, which carried a \$200,000 salary, attracted just 15 to 20 initial applicants.

"It was really hard to find people to step into a job that pays \$200,000," Mr. Ramirez says. "Because of the risk and reward, it doesn't pencil out for a lot of people." The system's Board of Governors announced it had chosen State Sen. Jack Scott for the job last May, about 10 months after it had announced its national search for the position. Mr. Scott takes over January 1.

Other districts and colleges have also had trouble finding new leaders. Grossmont College, near San Diego, tried twice to find a president a year and a half ago before hiring search consultants. "It's a problem," says Marcia M. Wade, vice president for human resources at Santa Monica College and president of the board of the Association of California Community College Administrators. "Many of the districts are having professional headhunters do the placement."

Smaller applicant pools aren't necessarily spelling trouble, says Narcisa A. Polonio, vice president for research, education, and board-leadership services at the Association of Community College Trustees. "The quality's there," Ms. Polonio says. "The quantity may not be."

Other recruiters see less-experienced applicant pools than they've seen in the past.

"From my point of view, the pools have not been good in the last several years," says Floyd M. Hogue, a former president of Ohlone College who now owns a company that provides community colleges with retired administrators for interim positions.

One thing is for sure: His business has been brisk.

Paltry Pipeline

Beyond the low pay, high expectations, and state financing problems that complicate recruitment of two-year-college executives in California, the glut of baby boomer retirements has hit the state hard. Experts say California and other states will have to do more to develop leaders from within their two-year-college ranks. Leadership development programs have disappeared in recent years, including two key ones for community-college presidents that were run by the University of California at Berkeley and the University of California at Los Angeles.

"Every school out there should be looking for people to prepare for leadership," Ms. Polonio says. "If we don't address the leadership vacuum, we are going to have a crisis in the future."

Developing leaders from within has its challenges in California. The paucity of applicants has to do with faculty members' lack of interest in moving into the administrative role, says John S. Levin, director of the California Community College Collaborative at the University of California at Riverside. "The pipeline to the presidency is a weak flow," wrote Mr. Levin in an e-mail message. "There need to be a number of changes so that the flow can be more robust." If faculty members were more involved in the college or district's decision making, for example, they might be more inclined to move into administration, he says. Diversifying faculty could help. And pay needs to be looked at, he added.

In some cases, leaders in the smaller applicant pools are putting themselves in a better position to negotiate, particularly in the richer districts.

"We're all competing for the same talent," says Linda Beam, executive dean of human resources and labor relations at the College of Marin. "Candidates can be aggressive with what they seek in their package, including vacation time, benefits, retirement supplements, car allowances, and entertaining allowances."

But once they're in the chair, two-year-college leaders often have trouble negotiating raises. "They're sort of at the mercy of budgets and politics," Mr. Ramirez says.

The board of Shasta College in Redding recently gave its president, Gary A. Lewis, his first raise after more than two years in the position. "I think they wanted to do something to make me stick around for a while," Mr. Lewis says. He defended his 5-percent raise to the local newspaper, citing the shortage of two-year-college leaders.

"In my mind it was a moderate increase," he told the *Record Searchlight*. "I feel comfortable about it." His new salary: \$177,450.

HIGHEST-PAID LEADERS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, 2007-8

1. Michael B. McCall

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Total annual compensation: \$610,670

Package includes, from public sources:

- \$286,000 salary
- \$134,460 deferred compensation

- \$43,010 retirement pay
- \$57,200 performance bonus
- \$90,000 house allowance and use of car
- Club dues

2. Eduardo J. Padron

Miami Dade College

Total annual compensation: \$575,450

Package includes, from public and private sources:

- \$441,538 salary
- \$20,500 deferred compensation
- \$45,500 retirement pay
- \$67,912 performance bonus

3. Orlando J. George Jr.

Delaware Technical and Community College Central Office

Total annual compensation: \$435,066

Package includes, from public sources:

- \$360,066 salary
- \$75,000 retirement pay
- Use of a house and car
- Club dues

Sanford C. Shugart, Valencia Community College	\$429,135
Glenn DuBois, Virginia Community College System	\$415,308
Steven R. Wallace, Florida Community College at Jacksonville	\$403,205
Carl M. Kuttler Jr., St. Petersburg College	\$387,879
Philip R. Day Jr., City College of San Francisco*	\$382,208
Jerry Sue Thornton, Cuyahoga Community College	\$363,787
Richard Carpenter, Lone Star College District	\$361,398

* Resigned April 2008

MarketWatch.com

PRESS RELEASE

RateMyProfessors.com Names 2008 Highest Rated Professors and Faculty

Last update: 10:03 a.m. EST Nov. 19, 2008

NEW YORK, Nov 19, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Brigham Young's Randy Bott Named Top Rated Professor on Site; University of South Alabama, Louisiana Tech University and University of Houston lead 2008 University Rankings

As Economic Pressures Continue and Community College Enrollment Trends Upward, RateMyProfessors.com Adds Top Lists for Junior Colleges: James Mattimore of Suffolk County Community College Ranked Highest Rated Junior College Professor; Manatee Community College Claims the Top Ranked Faculty

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 /PRNewswire/ -- RateMyProfessors.com, the Internet's largest destination for professor ratings, today announced its annual ranking lists that capture the highest rated college professors and faculties on the site. Brigham Young's Randy Bott is best ranked University professor, with St. John's University's Joyce Boland-Devito hot on his heels in second place. The University of South Alabama, not listed among the highest rated faculties by RateMyProfessors.com in 2007, on average has the highest rated professors of all four-year Universities this year.

For the first time, RateMyProfessors.com expanded its rankings to include lists of the highest rated junior and community college professors and faculties. As economic hardships continue for students and families across the country, enrollment at many community colleges this fall is projected to increase 10 percent overall, likely resulting in record-setting numbers of junior college students. According to the rankings, Manatee Community College in Sarasota, Florida has the highest rated faculty of all and the highest rated professor overall is English teacher Jim Mattimore who hails from Suffolk County Community College in Long Island, NY.

"It's important for us to shine a light on professors around the country who are doing great work at every institutional level," said Carlo DiMarco, Vice President of University Relations for mtvU, which owns and operates RateMyProfessors.com. "The 2008 RateMyProfessors.com rankings mirror the voices of students sitting in classes and listening to professors' lectures. These students have elevated the teachers they feel are the best to the top of these lists."

"Since beginning my career at Suffolk County Community College over thirty years ago, I've had the honor of teaching nearly 10,000 students. I, like many teachers, strive to make my classes enjoyable while still guaranteeing that my students obtain a high-quality education," said Jim Mattimore, English Professor at Suffolk County Community College and Top-Ranked Junior

College Professor. "The majority of my students work to support their education, in addition to supplementing the costs with student loans. In these tough economic times, I'm happy to see that RateMyProfessors.com is taking note of two-year colleges around the country and providing a forum for students to research school faculties."

Additional highlights from the 2008 Annual RateMyProfessors.com Highest Rated Professors and Faculty ranking include Louisiana Tech University moving from number 17 on last year's rankings to grab the number two spot for top rated faculty, while Brigham Young University dropped from number one to number seven on the list, despite landing the top rated professor this year. Other universities with top ranked professors include University of Houston, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Kennesaw State University. Hugo Schwyzer, a history teacher at Pasadena City College, took home the annual 'Hottest Professor in the Country' title. Two mathematics professors, Andrew Beran of Pace University and Corey Manchester of San Diego State University took second and third rank, respectively. Beran, rated the ninth hottest teacher in 2007, shot up in the ranks after changing schools in the last year.

This week, mtvU green lit a new season of the popular series "Professors Strike Back" - this time giving professors the tools to upload video submissions to directly address how their teaching ability has been characterized by students. By the end of the month, professors who want to submit film rebuttals can log onto <http://ProfessorsStrikeBack.mtvU.com> to upload video countering any criticisms and presenting their side of the story. Labeled a "cult college hit" by the New York Times, participants are given the spotlight and 30 seconds, with the opportunity to respond to the ratings and comments posted on RateMyProfessors.com. The episodes air on mtvU, and are available on demand at mtvU.com (<http://professorsstrikeback.mtvu.com>), where they have been among the most popular original mtvU programming.

Each year RateMyProfessors.com's annual rankings capture the highest rated college professors and faculties on the site. In the past year, monthly traffic to the site has increased approximately 18 percent in page views, and about 20 percent in visits on average, according to Omniture. The lists were culled from RateMyProfessors.com's extensive database of more than 7.5 million student-generated ratings of over 1,000,000 college professors.

The 2008 RateMyProfessors.com Rankings include:

Top 10 Universities with Highest Rated Professors

1. University of South Alabama
2. Louisiana Tech University
3. University of Houston
4. Southeastern Louisiana University
5. Kennesaw State University
6. Florida International University
7. Brigham Young University
8. Northern Kentucky University
9. Stony Brook University (SUNY)

10. Virginia Commonwealth University

Top 10 Rated Professors at the Universities

1. Brigham Young University, Randy Bott
2. St. John's University, Joyce Boland-Devito
3. Liberty University, Troy Matthews
4. University at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo), Jim Javor
5. University at Albany (SUNY Albany), Paul Morgan, Jr.
6. University of Texas at San Antonio, Joseph Rogers
7. Wright State University, Gaetano Guzzo III
8. University of Central Florida, Scott Smith
9. University of Maryland- Baltimore County, Jim Thomas
10. University of South Alabama, Teresa Weldy

Top 10 Junior Colleges with Highest Rated Professors

1. Manatee Community College
2. Long Beach City College
3. Anne Arundel Community College
4. Brookdale Community College
5. Richland College
6. El Camino College
7. San Diego City College
8. Tallahassee Community College
9. Delta College
10. San Jacinto College

Top 10 Rated Professors at the Junior Colleges

1. Suffolk County Community College, Jim Mattimore
2. Rio Hondo Community College, Michael Farris
3. Moorpark College, Julie Campbell
4. Anne Arundel Community College, Paul Vinette
5. San Jacinto College, BK Silva
6. Tidewater Community College, Samuel Lamb
7. North Harris Community College, Darryl Egley
8. Broward Community College, Howard Housen
9. College of Southern Maryland, Chretien Guidry

10. Lone Star College-CyFair, Tom Kelly

Top 10 Hottest Professors

1. Pasadena City College, Hugo Schwyzer
2. Pace University, Andrew Beran
3. San Diego State University, Corey Manchester
4. San Diego State University, Isabelle Sacramentogrilo
5. Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Ruth Dellinger
6. Hunter College, Adrienne Alaie
7. Pasadena City College, Derek Milne
8. Baruch College, David Sitt
9. George Mason University, Malda Kocache
10. Orange Coast College, Deborah Maher

RateMyProfessors.com Top Lists Ranking Methodology

RateMyProfessors.com uses a five-point Likert scale, as well as a binary scoring system, for student-generated professor ratings. For each of the professor lists, each individual rating value was first standardized around its mean. Using the standardized scores from the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 to date, weighted scores were computed using the following weights: 15% for 2006, 25% for 2007 and 60% for 2008. The weighted score reflects a combined, long-term performance rating of just over a two-and-one-half years, with an emphasis on the most recent ratings

Using the weighted score, professors were ranked from high to low. Only professors with 10 ratings or more (in the years 2006-present) were included to provide statistical significance. All professors were verified as actively teaching in the current semester by each school at the time the lists were compiled.

In an attempt to break ties, professors with a greater number of ratings were ranked higher. Nevertheless, ties (i.e. professors with the same score and the same number of ratings) still occur. In that case, if two professors are tied for the same place - say 5th - then the next available rank is 7th.

More information on how this methodology was applied to each category is available here: <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/methodology.jsp>. All of the rankings were determined with statistical support and consultation provided by Professor Wolfgang Jank, a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Decision & Information Technologies at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

About RateMyProfessors.com

RateMyProfessors.com is the highest trafficked US college professor rating site (comScore) with almost 6,500+ schools and 8,000,000+ ratings, providing an automated system for quickly researching and rating over 1,000,000+ professors from colleges and universities across the United States and other international territories. The site reaches approximately 2.8 million college students each month and more than 80,000 log on daily to <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/>.

About mtvU

Broadcast to more than 750 college campuses and via top cable distributors in 700 college communities nationwide, mtvU reaches upwards of 9 million U.S. college students - making it the largest, most comprehensive television network just for college students. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, mtvU can be seen in the dining areas, fitness centers, student lounges and dorm rooms of campuses throughout the United States, as well as on cable systems from Charter Communications, Verizon FiOS TV, Suddenlink Communications, AT&T u-Verse and nearly 70 others. mtvU is dedicated to every aspect of college life, reaching students everywhere they are: on-air, online and on campus. mtvU programs music videos from emerging artists that can't be seen anywhere else, news, student life features and initiatives that give college students the tools to advance positive social change. mtvU is always on campus, with more than 250 events per year, including exclusive concerts, giveaways, shooting mtvU series and more. For more information about mtvU, and a complete programming schedule, visit www.mtvU.com. mtvU also owns and operates the College Media Network, the largest interactive network of online college newspapers in the United States, and RateMyProfessors.com, the Internet's largest listing of collegiate professor ratings. The College Media Network comprises nearly 600 campus publications that serve institutions including Brown University, the University of Illinois, the University of Southern California, the University of Texas at Austin and Duke University, with a combined enrollment of over 5.5 million students, reaching an average of 5 million unique users each month. RateMyProfessors.com reaches approximately 2.9 million college students each month, via the site's more than 6.6 million student-generated ratings of over 1,000,000 college professors.

SOURCE mtvU

<http://professorsstrikeback.mtvu.com>

PressTelegram.com

Compton's college

Press-Telegram Editorial

Posted: 11/18/2008 09:58:29 PM PST

A once-discredited campus is on its way to becoming a source of community pride.

The Compton area lost its community college in 2006 after state audits uncovered financial fraud, stolen equipment and enrollment of students who didn't exist. But in its place has risen a replacement deserving of respect.

The name, El Camino College Compton Community Education Center, is different and longer, but the changes physically and academically are what matters. The campus has become a showpiece compared to its once deteriorated state.

Roofs no longer leak, the gym has been completely renovated, there is a new library and a formerly unusable cafeteria has been reopened with glistening new equipment. Enrollment, now 4,600, is up more than 35 percent in just a year.

Much of the credit for the transformation goes to Thomas Fallo, president of El Camino College in Torrance, who shrugged off naysayers and agreed to take over Compton College as a satellite of his college. He used \$41 million in bond money to make the physical improvements, appointed two new deans, put money into faculty development and encouraged closer relationships with alienated community members.

There are two ways community colleges like El Camino, Compton and Long Beach are uniquely equipped to provide essential services. Students who didn't apply themselves in high school can change their ways at a two-year college and go on to academic distinction at the best of universities, and students with other interests can get technical training of a high order. Compton, for example, has added to its 12 vocational programs two new ones: aerospace and robotics.

Administrators at El Camino told the L.A. Times the Torrance campus is benefitting as well. Its nursing program has been expanded and now is one of the state's biggest, encompassing faculty and labs on both campuses. Rodney Murray, dean of vocational education, is seeking partnerships with businesses in the Compton area, and Provost Lawrence Cox, according to the Times, hopes to develop classrooms with technology to assess student progress in real time.

The last thing Compton needed was for the local college to lose its accreditation and its local control. But, Fallo says, the college now is on its way toward regaining accreditation, possibly as early as 2013.

Restoring community pride already is well under way.

LA Times.com

Wildfires: Did low water pressure hinder the fight?

Residents in Yorba Linda and Sylmar had complained of poor flow for years. But some officials say no system is designed to handle the kind of demand that arose over the weekend.

By Jeff Gottlieb and Tony Barboza
November 19, 2008

Residents of Yorba Linda, where fire destroyed 118 homes, had complained for years of poor water pressure, a problem that may have made it more difficult for firefighters to beat back the weekend blaze that tore through the upscale community.

In Sylmar, where about 500 mobile homes burned to the ground, fire officials said they were investigating reports of lack of water pressure there. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power supplies water to the Oakridge Mobile Home Park property line, but inside, the water system belongs to the park.

In both areas, residents and some officials were openly discussing whether the lack of water pressure complicated the already monumental task that firefighters faced.

Fire officials in Sylmar are checking to see if their department had inspected the mobile home park hydrants as required in the last year, said Craig Fry, assistant fire marshal for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said he was at the mobile home park after the fire burned through on Saturday, and firefighters told him that hydrants had stopped working and they were forced to use their water tenders instead.

"We would have had a fair shot if the pressure hadn't gone down," said Battalion Chief Fred Mathis, as he sat in his firetruck in the mobile home park Saturday.

A representative of the company that owns the park, Continental Mobile Housing, said he was busy at Oakridge and did not have time to talk.

Farther south, Ken Vecchiarelli, assistant general manager of the Yorba Linda Water District, said its hydrant system was built to fight fires involving a few houses, not a firestorm.

"This was the type of thing any system in any community was not designed for," he said.

At a packed meeting at Yorba Linda City Hall on Tuesday night, residents, many of whose

homes had burned, expressed anger.

"I was told when they [firefighters] got to the top of our street, they turned back because there was no water pressure," said Diane Manista, whose house burned down in the hard-hit neighborhood of Hidden Hills.

"The fire hydrant in front of our house has a bag on it and wasn't even working. It's beyond words."

Water district officials acknowledged a lack of water pressure and were investigating the problem.

Orange County Fire Authority Battalion Chief Kris Concepcion said Manista's neighborhood did go without water in the hydrants, but firefighters were able to overcome the problem with fire tenders that carry water.

"Did it hamper firefighting? Not really," he said.

"Did additional homes burn as a result? That's hard to say."

But in the Vista Bel Aire subdivision of Yorba Linda, situated at the top of a hill against the open brush of Chino Hills State Park, several residents said that for years they have been phoning in complaints to the water district about poor pressure.

One man said he had had spent thousands of dollars to buy a pump to increase water flow from his faucets, hoses and shower heads.

And in one neighborhood that was evacuated Saturday, at least 125 homeowners have been battling low water pressure for several years, according to East Lake Village Community Assn. General Manager Susan Janowicz.

"Some people couldn't even take a shower and wash their dishes at the same time," she said.

"They were trying to water their lawns and not all the sprinklers would pop up."

The association last year persuaded the water district to add new pipelines and valves that will increase pressure, she said. But they're still waiting.

Fire captains also spoke about widespread water pressure problems Saturday. Orange County Fire Capt. Bill Lockhart said his crew hooked up to a hydrant on Fairmont Boulevard about 5 p.m. but no water came out. The crew struck water at the next available hydrant.

"It delayed things a bit, but we were able to make it happen," he said.

Dave Rosenberger, a Yorba Linda community college teacher who unsuccessfully ran for the water district board of directors, said he had often heard complaints of low pressure while campaigning door to door this fall.

He questioned what officials had been doing to anticipate the water demands of a wildfire.

"What was their preparedness plan out there?" he asked. "If I was a resident and my house had been destroyed, and I was going to the water board today, I would be a little bit agitated, a little bit troubled."

Lee Macpherson, coordinator of the Fire and Emergency Technology Department at El Camino College, said that when so many hydrants are opened, it's similar to when a family has turned on the dishwasher, the sprinklers and the washing machine and then someone jumps in the shower: Pressure will dwindle.

Lack of water pressure has hindered efforts to extinguish other fires, such as the blaze that tore through two city blocks at the Universal Studios Hollywood back lot in June, destroying the "King Kong" tour and burning movie sets.

When hundreds of homes in Laguna Beach burned to the ground in 1993 -- one of Orange County's worst fires -- the problem was never a shortage of water, but rather the lack of water pressure and a system not designed for such a huge blaze.

Fry, the assistant Los Angeles fire marshal, said the Sylmar mobile home park hydrant system was designed to fight house fires, not a wildfire.

"Open all the hydrants and there's going to be a significant drop in pressure," he said.

Battalion Chief Corey Creasey of the Glendale Fire Department, who was called to the blaze, said that as his five engines were fighting the fire, they heard radio calls that they needed to conserve water.

The water supply stopped around 5 a.m., he said.

"The system isn't designed to take 50 engines," Creasey said.

Gottlieb and Barboza are Times staff writers.

Harvard Freezes Staff Hiring and May Call Off Faculty Searches

In further signs that university endowments — even the wealthiest ones — are taking a hit in the nation’s economic crisis, *The Boston Globe* reports that Harvard University’s largest faculty division is freezing staff hiring and rethinking faculty searches, and *The New York Times* reports that Harvard and other institutions are exploring opportunities to sell some of the more volatile chunks of their endowment portfolios.

Michael D. Smith, dean of Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, wrote in an e-mail message to department heads on Monday that Harvard’s endowment losses would have “a major and long-lasting impact” and would “require significant reductions in our annual expenses,” according to the *Globe*.

Harvard’s endowment, which was reported last year to be worth more than \$34-billion, pays for more than one-third of the university’s operating budget. Two weeks ago, Harvard’s president, Drew Gilpin Faust, wrote in a letter to the campus that the university anticipated a loss of revenue because of the economic crisis. Neither Ms. Faust’s letter nor Mr. Smith’s message gave specific figures for the endowment’s performance in recent weeks.

According to the *Times*, Harvard, the University of Virginia, Columbia and Duke Universities, and other institutions that hold “alternative investments” are now trying to sell or considering sales of some of those investments. But finding buyers is proving difficult because such investments — which include hedge funds, private-equity holdings, and real-estate partnerships — are not traded publicly.

Other Ivy League institutions that are taking a hard look at expenses these days include Brown and Cornell Universities, which have also announced hiring freezes, and Dartmouth College, which is contemplating a 10-percent budget cut that it says may require a staff reduction. Dozens of other institutions around the country are taking similar cost-cutting measures. A *Chronicle survey* offers a glimpse at how colleges are responding to the downturn. —*Charles Huckabee*

Posted on Tuesday November 25, 2008 | [Permalink](#) |

LA Times.com

Compton College benefiting from takeover by El Camino

After the campus was stripped of accreditation, many were skeptical of nearby school's plan to step in. But students, staff and the community are excited by the ensuing changes, and enrollment is up.

By Alicia Lozano
November 16, 2008

Two years after Compton College was stripped of its accreditation, a multimillion-dollar effort is underway to reestablish the two-year school as an institution of higher learning.

El Camino College, which has assumed management of Compton, has spent \$41 million in local bond money to renovate facilities and recently hired three new deans to revamp a threadbare curriculum. The vocational division, which offered 12 programs in practical skills, such as welding and cosmetology, has added two new disciplines -- aerospace and robotics.

When Compton lost its accreditation in 2006, the campus was crumbling under the pressure of state audits that unearthed financial fraud, fake enrollments and missing computer equipment. El Camino in nearby Torrance stepped in, agreeing to oversee the budget while working with a state-appointed special trustee.

Officially, Compton College no longer exists. It's a satellite of El Camino and now goes by the lengthy name of El Camino College Compton Community Education Center.

Many at El Camino cautioned their administration against rushing to the aid of Compton. Some students were worried that they would not have a choice between campuses, while others feared the location, according to Thomas Fallo, president of El Camino.

But Fallo was more concerned that the loss of a college would harm the quality of life in Compton and neighboring communities. He said he did not hesitate to encourage a skeptical Board of Trustees to unilaterally support a partnership with the troubled school.

A lingering stereotype continues to haunt the Compton campus. Rob Pitts, 24, the student body president, said some members of the El Camino administration brought negative impressions with them to the school.

"I have to make sure" that people "are treated like students, not inner-city hoodlums," he said. "We have a stereotype that we're thugs or criminals, but we're here for a reason."

After El Camino assumed control, the college entered what Ann Garten, spokeswoman for El Camino, called the triage stage. Compton's facilities were in bad shape, with leaky roofs and cracked walls. Fallo noticed that students in the area did not seek out other community colleges as an alternative to Compton. They just stopped going to college.

But recent experiences of two Compton residents -- Brian Turner, 22, and his sister, Twana Turner, 24 -- are more encouraging.

Four years ago, they went to Compton College hoping to enroll for the fall term. They found annoyed and confused students waiting in a six-hour registration line and academic advisors who weren't familiar with graduation requirements. Despite a family connection to the school -- their father is the men's basketball coach -- they got jobs at a mall instead.

But when El Camino took over, the siblings decided to give the institution a second chance.

"When I came here two years ago, all I did was complain and complain," Brian Turner said. "But now it's starting to feel like a campus, like a university."

Several El Camino administrators said that resuscitating the campus proved beneficial to El Camino as well, which was able to expand its nursing program to include a licensed vocational nursing department.

Now El Camino has one of the largest nursing programs in the state, according to Fallo. Students go back and forth between the two campuses, taking advantage of small class sizes in Compton and high-tech labs at El Camino.

Cosmetic upgrades also have given the campus a fresh feel. The renovated gym smells like a new car. Once comparable to an urban boxing center, the interior sparkles with \$100,000 of improvements over the exposed plumbing and dim lighting of previous years, said Rodney Murray, dean of vocational education.

Murray was appointed in June along with Susan Devers, dean of academic programs and Jane Harmon, dean of academic affairs.

The cafeteria had been closed so long that even Murray, a faculty member since 1994, couldn't remember the last time it was open. But he did remember that it had a leaky roof and poor refrigeration.

Today the cafeteria sparkles with new stainless steel appliances. Hamburgers and French fries sizzle on display, while ice cream stays cold near candy and sodas. A projector blares MTV in an adjoining lounge.

"We want to encourage students to build a relationship with the institution, making this a second home," Devers said.

School officials say that from last fall to this year, enrollment has increased from 3,400 to 4,600 - a jump of 33%.

Administrators partly credit the increase to improved ties between the college and the community, which was initially cynical about the takeover. Provost Lawrence Cox regularly holds meetings with residents and local businesses to keep the city updated on campus affairs.

Other innovations continue. The college recently poured \$100,000 from its general fund toward faculty development. Professors are now expected to include learning objectives on their syllabus, something that was not mandatory previously.

Cox is also pushing for the development of "smart classrooms" equipped with current technology to test whether students understand a lesson.

"If students are having trouble, we need to intervene right then," Cox said. "We don't need to wait until the middle of the semester when they're lost or at the end of the semester when they've failed."

Murray is reaching out to the business community for support. He hopes to form partnerships between the college's vocational schools and the city of Compton's professional companies.

Compton could regain accreditation in 2013 at the earliest, officials estimated. Even though some Compton residents were initially dismayed at the loss of the school's independence, many are now hopeful that it is on the road to redemption.

"The mood is starting to change," Fallo said. "I have seen more of the students and community coming together to reach the understanding that, through time, this will work."

Mira Costa Times

OCEANSIDE: MiraCosta narrows president search to three Community can meet finalists at forum

By STACY BRANDT - Staff Writer | Thursday, November 20, 2008

OCEANSIDE ---- MiraCosta College has narrowed its search for a new president to three people who are already in top leadership posts at other community colleges in California, school officials said Thursday.

The finalists are Thomas Fallo, president at El Camino College in Torrance; Kathleen Hodge, president at Fullerton College; and Francisco Rodriguez, president at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento.

Fallo has been working at community colleges for the last 36 years. He started in 1972 as a staff assistant at Los Angeles Community College and eventually worked his way up the post of interim chancellor. After working a couple of years as a vice president at Glendale College, he moved to El Camino College, where he has served as president since 1995.

Hodge has also worked at community colleges for more than 30 years. She started at Cypress College in 1974. A year later, she moved to the South Orange County Community College District where she worked her way up from an instructor to interim chancellor. She was hired as president of Fullerton College in 2004.

Rodriguez started his community college career 11 years ago as a director of student affairs at Woodland College, near Sacramento. He left the college in 2003 as executive dean to become president of Cosumnes River College. Prior to working at community colleges, Rodriguez spent nine years working at UC Davis in the student programs and activities office.

MiraCosta officials are inviting the community to meet the candidates during a forum that will be held from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the theater of the Oceanside campus, 1 Barnard Drive.

Each finalist will have an hour to answer questions from the audience and moderators.

The 12,000-student community college has been looking for a new president since its former leader, Victoria Munoz Richart, resigned last year.

News from MiraCosta College

OCEANSIDE CAMPUS

One Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056 • (760) 757-2121

SAN ELIJO CAMPUS

3333 Manchester Ave., Cardiff, CA 92007 • (760) 944-4449

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

1831 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92054 • (760) 795-8710

CONTACT:

Cheryl Kyle, Marketing & Media Relations Coordinator
Office: (760) 795-6612
E-mail: ckyle@miracosta.edu

Bonnie Hall, Director of Public Relations
Office: (760) 795-6613 • Residence: (760) 729-6435
E-mail: bhall@miracosta.edu

NR 137-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President Finalists & Forum

November 20, 2008

MiraCosta College President Search Yields Three Finalists; Community Forum Scheduled

MiraCosta College has announced three finalists for the position of superintendent/president and is inviting interested community members to attend a forum to meet the candidates. The forum will be held December 5, 1-4:30 p.m. in the Oceanside Campus theatre, 1 Barnard Drive. The forum will be moderated by representatives of the three college-constituent groups: Brad Byrom, president of the Academic Senate; Kathy Perkins, president of Classified Senate; and Christopher Ahrens, Student Trustee. Each finalist will have one hour to respond to questions posed by the three moderators and from the audience.

The finalists are Dr. Thomas M. Fallo, Superintendent/President of El Camino College in Torrance; Dr. Kathleen Hodge, President of Fullerton College; and Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, President of Cosumnes River College in Sacramento.

Dr. Thomas M. Fallo

Dr. Fallo began his community college career in the Los Angeles Community College District in 1972 as a staff assistant, and later served as vice president of Administrative Services for eight years, and interim chancellor for one year. In 1989, he moved to Glendale College, where he worked as vice president of Administrative Services. In 1991, he assumed the role of vice president of Administrative services at El Camino College, and in 1995, was hired as superintendent/president, a position he currently holds. Dr. Fallo holds a doctorate in educational administration from Pepperdine University, a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California at Los Angeles.

El Camino College serves 25,000 students and employs more than 1300 employees, with a budget of \$195 million. El Camino College also includes the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center.

Dr. Kathleen Hodge

Dr. Hodge began her community college career in 1974 at Cypress College as a classified staff member in student activities. In 1975, she moved to South Orange County Community College District, where she worked as a psychology and speech instructor, counselor, dean of continuing education, vice-chancellor of Educational Services and Emeritus Institute, and interim chancellor. In 2004, she was hired as president of Fullerton College, a position she currently holds. Dr. Hodge holds a doctorate of education in community college leadership from the University of Southern California, a master's degree in counseling and a bachelor's degree in communications from California State University at Fullerton, and an associate of arts in liberal studies from Citrus College.

Fullerton College enrolls 20,000 students and is part of the North Orange Community College District. The college employs more than 1100 employees, with a budget of \$209 million.

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez

Dr. Rodriguez began his community college career in 1997 at Woodland College in the Yuba Community College District, where he served as director of student affairs, associate dean of instruction and student services, and executive dean (now titled president). In 2003, he became the president of Cosumnes River College, a position he currently holds. Dr. Rodriguez also worked at UC Davis in the Student Programs and Activities Office for nine years before beginning his community college career. He holds a doctorate in education-leadership from Oregon State University, a master's degree in community development and a bachelor's degree in Chicano studies from the University of California, Davis.

Cosumnes River College is one of four colleges in the Los Rios Community College District, which has a budget of \$230 million, and is located in south Sacramento County. The college enrolls 15,000 students, and has more than 650 employees.

The finalists for the position of MiraCosta College superintendent/president were selected by a 22-member committee composed of college employees, students and community members. The committee included three full-time and two part-time faculty members; three administrators; three classified staff members; two students; and nine community members, three of whom serve on the college foundation board.

MiraCosta College serves nearly 12,000 students, employs more than 900 faculty and staff and has an annual budget of \$95 million.

For more information about the candidate forum, call Bonnie Hall, (760) 795-6613. Photos of each of the candidates are available at www.miracosta.edu/photos.

11-26-08

Forum set for MiraCosta presidential finalists

By Lola Sherman

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

NORTH COUNTY – Three finalists have been chosen in MiraCosta College's search for a new president to replace Victoria Muñoz Richart, who resigned in 2007 after two years of controversy with a settlement package worth \$1.6 million.

A public forum will be held Dec. 5 at the Oceanside community college campus to introduce the candidates to the community. The final choice is up to the college's governing board.

A 22-member search committee chose the finalists, all currently presidents of California community colleges larger than MiraCosta. They are:

- Thomas M. Fallo, president of El Camino College in Torrance since 1995.
- Kathleen Hodge, president of Fullerton College since 2004.
- Francisco Rodriguez, president of Cosumnes River College in the Sacramento area, since 2003.

“I think we got the best that applied,” said Ric Matthews, dean of math and sciences and a member of the search committee. “The three finalists rose to the top. I feel we had a real consensus on these three.”

Matthews said the committee reviewed about 50 applications.

In April, the college board rejected the two choices submitted by a previous search committee, saying they were not being given a large-enough selection.

The new committee contained less campus-based personnel and more community members. Although the committee was large, Matthews said, “I would definitely say that it was a good process.”

The new president will inherit a campus experiencing an enrollment boom and a faculty and administration still recovering from turmoil during Richart's tenure.

The controversy started with the disclosure in May 2006 that an investigation was ongoing into the illegal sale of campus-owned palm trees; continued through a guilty plea of grand theft by the head of the Horticulture Department; festered with the departure of two other popular administrators; and resulted in the full-time faculty issuing a no-confidence vote in Richart and

the board of trustees. A group of staff members and former board members and presidents sent trustees a letter calling for Richart's dismissal.

She was given a cash settlement, salary and benefits after an all-night session of the college board.

The board of trustees had fractured over the controversy, causing the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges to warn MiraCosta that it could lose its accreditation because of rifts among board members and delays in setting standards of student achievement.

Fallo, the only candidate who could be reached yesterday, said he is well-versed in what it takes to keep accreditation.

Here are brief biographies of the finalists:

■Fallo has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's in business administration from UCLA and a doctorate in educational administration from Pepperdine University. He has worked in community colleges since 1972.

■Hodge received an associate in arts degree from Citrus College, a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's in counseling from California State University Fullerton and a doctorate of education in community-college leadership from the University of Southern California. She began her community college career in 1974.

■Rodriguez holds a bachelor's degree in Chicano studies and a master's in community development from the University of California Davis and a doctorate in education leadership from Oregon State University. He began working in community colleges in 1997.

DETAILS

Public forum

When: 1-4:30 p.m. Dec. 5

Where: Campus theater, MiraCosta College, 1 Barnard Drive in Oceanside.

Format: Three finalists for the position of college president will each have an hour to introduce themselves and answer questions from a college panel and the public.

The Daily Breeze

Twelve ECC football players earn all-conference honors

By Dave Thorpe, Staff Writer

Posted: 11/20/2008 11:18:05 PM PST

The El Camino College football team had 12 All-Southern California Football Association National Division Central Conference selections, including eight on offense and four on defense. El Camino also had four players who were honorable mention picks.

The Warriors had five first-team picks on offense and two on defense, including the conference's Defensive Player of the Year, freshman defensive end Daniel Stewart, who finished the regular season with a flourish, recording three sacks during El Camino's playoff-clinching win over Cerritos College Saturday.

Stewart finished with 51 tackles, including 17 for a loss, and eight sacks. Lockdown cornerback Michael Harris was El Camino's other first-team pick on defense.

El Camino's first-team picks on offense were center Kyle McManus, guard Sean Enesi, tackle Daniel Mafoe, wide receiver William Bullock and quarterback Jimmy Coy.

Coy finished the regular season 188-for-295 for 2,755 yards with 14 touchdowns and three interceptions. Bullock had 43 catches for 800 yards and five touchdowns in nine games.

Guard Elisala Tela, wide receiver Kembrell Thompkins and placekicker Brian Blumberg were second-team picks for El Camino.

Nose guard Ryan Walker and inside linebacker Reuben Willis were second-team picks on defense for El Camino.

Cornerback Ray Chapman, free safety Alex DeGiacomo, defensive tackle Kamaloni Vainikolo and outside linebacker Dionte Brooks made honorable mention for ECC, which hosts Saddleback in the first round of the Southern California Regional playoffs on Saturday at 6 p.m.

College cooperation pays off

Daily Breeze Editorial

Posted: 11/20/2008

As the holiday season approaches, people tend to embrace a spirit of giving. That spirit has been in full force at El Camino College, which assumed management of Compton College two years ago and is now seeing positive rewards from those efforts.

When Compton lost its accreditation in 2006, El Camino officials stepped up with a plan to oversee the college as a satellite campus, which is now called El Camino College Compton Community Education Center.

The results of this partnership have been significant. Tens of millions of dollars in bond money approved by voters in the Compton Community College District in 2002 have been tapped to repair roofs, renovate the gym, build a new library and revamp a deteriorating cafeteria. Enrollment at the Compton center, meanwhile, is up 33 percent over the previous academic year.

New deans have been appointed, Compton's curriculum standards are on par with El Camino's and the Torrance area campus's faculty have been helping to evaluate their counterparts in Compton. El Camino's president, Thomas Fallo, said efforts at the Compton center have focused on technical or vocational education, basic skills and more transfers to four-year universities.

The Compton center, which serves communities such as Carson, Watts-Willowbrook and North Long Beach as well as Compton, has also added aerospace and robotics to its vocational education programs.

Fallo said he was also happy with a recent federal Department of Education audit of the student financial aid programs at both campuses. The audit produced no negative findings.

All this represents an impressive track record considering that two years ago there was skepticism at El Camino about going forward with a plan to help the neighboring college. In 2006, El Camino's governing board voted to go forward with it on a divided 3-2 vote. This year, however, a vote to renew the contract to oversee Compton operations passed unanimously.

The dividends resulting from El Camino's efforts are now obvious to both campuses. Both sides have learned from the other's experiences. Fallo said El Camino may investigate the possibility of starting a licensed vocation nursing program, which Compton already has.

Having varied academic offerings at both campuses is especially important during difficult economic times. That's because as unemployment goes up, enrollments tend to go up at community colleges. And if California State University campuses begin turning students away

next year as a result of state budget problems, there will be more pressure on two-year campuses to pick up the slack.

El Camino's efforts were no doubt challenging at times for its staff, but the results have been positive for both campuses and the state community college system as a whole. We see it as further proof that lending a helping hand to others during a time of need produces rewards for all involved.

El Camino football maintains holding pattern

By Dave Thorpe, Staff Writer

Posted: 11/22/2008

When the El Camino College football team opens the Southern California regional playoffs against Saddleback tonight, it will rely heavily on its defensive unit to help keep Saddleback's unique and explosive offense at bay.

Saddleback is the fifth-highest scoring team in the state at 39.8 points per game. Winning the battle at the line of scrimmage and keeping a Saddleback offense that is based on misdirection in check is a priority.

An El Camino defensive line led by freshman end Daniel Stewart looks primed for the challenge. The recent return of freshman defensive end Paul Dancy, who missed five games with an injury, also should give the unit a boost.

Stewart recently was named the SCFA Central Conference Defensive Player of the Year after recording 51 tackles - 17 for a loss - including eight sacks during the regular season.

"He causes havoc in the backfield and he's consistent," first-year defensive coordinator Matt Kirk said. "He's got a motor and he's hard to block."

Stewart is only 5-foot-11, 240 pounds, but he's tough to handle for any offensive lineman.

"He's not real big, he just plays hard and wears down guys," El Camino coach John Featherstone said. "He has a nice feel for the game."

El Camino's defense has come together quickly despite little experience entering the season.

El Camino was No. 1 in total defense in the conference, allowing 269 yards per game, which ranks sixth in the state. El Camino had a conference-leading 38 sacks; Stewart's eight sacks also led the conference, as did his 17 tackles for a loss.

"We didn't know how the defense would come together," Kirk said.

Freshman inside linebacker Reuben Willis leads the linebacking unit. The second-team all-conference pick has 45 tackles, including 13 for a loss and seven sacks.

"We blitz him and he's great against the run," Kirk said. "Every week he's all over the place. He's already getting offers from Division I schools. We probably won't have him next year."

El Camino started the season with its usual flex defensive scheme with which 10-year defensive coordinator Tom Nelson has enjoyed success. But after the team gave up 27 points to Compton and 29 to Bakersfield, Kirk felt a change needed to be made.

"We adjusted to a 40 defense and made some other adjustments because of the different things our defense could do and because of all the different spread options we face," Kirk said. "I think we learned from it and have gotten better."

In its next three games, El Camino gave up 24 points to Riverside, followed by 15 to Chaffey and 13 to College of the Desert, utilizing a defensive scheme emphasizing speed.

"I think our speed wore teams out," Kirk said. "We don't get tired."

El Camino's pass defense, led by first-team all-conference cornerback Michael Harris and free safety Alex DiGiacomo, who leads the team with 57 tackles, has allowed just 140 yards passing per game, which is first in its conference and second in the state.

El Camino's defense will have to deal with a Saddleback offense that is a combination of a spread attack and a wing-T.

"It's one of the toughest offenses to face. No one really does it," Kirk said. "You have to stop the run first and play assignment football because of all the misdirection. It's a headache to coach against. Even the passing game is off of misdirection."

"It's a feast or famine offense," Featherstone said. "They either hit it big or get stopped at the line of scrimmage."

Stewart and company hope to get to Saddleback behind the line of scrimmage as much as possible and put the ball in the hands of the El Camino offense.

"You can't stop Saddleback, you just have to slow them down and score points on offense," Featherstone said.

dave.thorpe@dailybreeze.com

Tonight's game

SADDLEBACK (7-3) at EL CAMINO (9-1), 6 p.m.

American Bowl, Southern California Regional playoffs, first round

Last week: El Camino 35, Cerritos 32; Saddleback 38, Grossmont 21

Last year: El Camino 31, Saddleback 24

Preview: El Camino is 9-12 against Saddleback since Coach John Featherstone took over in 1985. The teams have played each other in the regular season every year since 1985 except for 1989, 1993 and this season. Saddleback boasts an offense based on misdirection, led by running backs Jai Morris (113 carries, 947 yards 9 TDs) and Micah Abreu-Laybon (104-695-6 TDs). Quarterback Brian Shrock was 16-for-24 for 260 yards with one interception and two TDs last week. Wide receivers Nick Hutter (nine catches, 217 yards, two touchdowns last week) and Jay Wisner (37 catches, 733 yards, five TDs this season) also provide a spark. El Camino quarterback Jimmy Coy finished the regular season 188-for-295 for 2,755 yards with 14 TDs and three interceptions. Bullock had 43 catches for 800 yards and five touchdowns in nine games. Both were all-conference first-team picks for the Warriors, who were No. 1 in the conference in third-down conversions. Kembrell Thompkins is another receiving threat. Thompkins has 42 catches for 746 yards and five TDs this season. El Camino hopes to cut down on its average of 103 yards in penalties per game.

ThePressTelegram.com

Compton's college

Press-Telegram Editorial

Posted: 11/18/2008

A once-discredited campus is on its way to becoming a source of community pride.

The Compton area lost its community college in 2006 after state audits uncovered financial fraud, stolen equipment and enrollment of students who didn't exist. But in its place has risen a replacement deserving of respect.

The name, El Camino College Compton Community Education Center, is different and longer, but the changes physically and academically are what matters. The campus has become a showpiece compared to its once deteriorated state.

Roofs no longer leak, the gym has been completely renovated, there is a new library and a formerly unusable cafeteria has been reopened with glistening new equipment. Enrollment, now 4,600, is up more than 35 percent in just a year.

Much of the credit for the transformation goes to Thomas Fallo, president of El Camino College in Torrance, who shrugged off naysayers and agreed to take over Compton College as a satellite of his college. He used \$41 million in bond money to make the physical improvements, appointed two new deans, put money into faculty development and encouraged closer relationships with alienated community members.

There are two ways community colleges like El Camino, Compton and Long Beach are uniquely equipped to provide essential services. Students who didn't apply themselves in high school can change their ways at a two-year college and go on to academic distinction at the best of universities, and students with other interests can get technical training of a high order. Compton, for example, has added to its 12 vocational programs two new ones: aerospace and robotics.

Administrators at El Camino told the L.A. Times the Torrance campus is benefitting as well. Its nursing program has been expanded and now is one of the state's biggest, encompassing faculty and labs on both campuses. Rodney Murray, dean of vocational education, is seeking partnerships with businesses in the Compton area, and Provost Lawrence Cox, according to the Times, hopes to develop classrooms with technology to assess student progress in real time.

The last thing Compton needed was for the local college to lose its accreditation and its local control. But, Fallo says, the college now is on its way toward regaining accreditation, possibly as early as 2013.

Restoring community pride already is well under way.

Cougars win slugfest COC defense comes up big and offense makes key plays without Carpenter

By Craig Leener

Posted: Nov. 22, 2008

It was a much improved football team from Antelope Valley College that gave College of the Canyons its money's worth Saturday night in what began as a defensive battle at the Western State Bowl.

COC found the necessary momentum in the second half, posting four touchdowns and making timely stops on defense as the Cougars rolled to a 41-17 victory over AVC at Cougar Stadium.

COC head coach Garrett Tujague, the 2008 conference Coach of the Year, said the geographical proximity of the two schools added to the competitiveness.

"Whenever you get a school that's close by, there's always going to be guys from each team who know each other, and they're not going to give up," Tujague said. "Their season was on the line, too. I just think we had a little more in our tank than they did."

The game doubled as the opening round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs. With the win, the Cougars (11-0) will host No. 4-seed El Camino College Saturday in the regional semifinals. El Camino earned the bid with its 31-28 victory over No. 5 Saddleback College last Saturday.

The Cougars won it without the services of sophomore wide receiver Hayo Carpenter, who drew a 72-hour suspension for what Tujague characterized as "conduct unbecoming of a Cougar." On Tuesday, Carpenter was named the National Division, Northern Conference Offensive Player of the Year.

The two teams previously met in the season opener Sept. 6, when COC pushed around the Marauders 54-14. Antelope Valley (6-5) improved steadily after that, winning six of its last seven games to close out American Division, Pacific Conference play as co-champion with Santa Barbara City College.

Meanwhile, COC won all 10 of its regular-season games, capturing the National Division, Northern Conference crown and earning the No. 1 seed in the regional playoffs as the only undefeated team in Southern California.

Now with each team fielding highly ranked defensive units, the game had the potential to be a low-scoring affair.

COC sophomore quarterback Brad McClellan felt the defensive squeeze as he threw a pair of interceptions and fumbled away the football while completing 13 passes on 27 attempts for 109 yards and two touchdowns.

McClellan said he might have been a little rusty after sitting out last week's win over Bakersfield with a sore shoulder.

"I didn't hardly practice much this week," McClellan said. "Antelope Valley did a couple of things that we didn't expect, but it was nothing we couldn't handle. We just came out a little sluggish, but we'll be fine."

After a scoreless first quarter, the Cougars struck on the first play of the second quarter as McClellan, behind rolling protection from right guard Joe Thompson, threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Nate Jones.

"I ran a little drag route, caught it, got some open space and I just got in," Jones said.

Ricky Drake's point-after try wobbled wide right.

Midway through the second, COC's Marquis Jackson blocked a 37-yard field-goal attempt by AVC kicker Javi Navarro, but a personal foul on the Cougars gave the Marauders back the football. Navarro made good on his second chance, a 25-yarder that cut COC's lead to 6-3 with 8:39 to play before the half.

A pair of long penalties against Antelope Valley propelled COC's subsequent drive. Fred Winborn capped it with a 3-yard touchdown plunge that extended the Cougars' advantage to 13-3 at 5:28 before the break, and that's the way it went into the locker room.

Winborn opened the third quarter with his second touchdown of the game. The sophomore running back, a First-Team All-Conference selection, sidestepped a pair of defenders before accelerating 39 yards down the left sideline. It gave the Cougars a 20-3 lead with 8:59 to play in the third.

The Marauders got it back on the wheels of wide receiver Eddie Russ. Russ caught a short pass from quarterback John Perez on a post pattern, shook off three Cougar tacklers and exploded down the center of the field for a 91-yard touchdown. A bad snap on the extra point kept the score at 20-9 COC.

A lengthy kickoff return by COC's B.J. Iverson set up the Cougars' next score, a 24-yard touchdown pass from McClellan to wide receiver Taveon Burke that staked Canyons to a 27-9 lead with 2:18 left in the third quarter.

A fourth-quarter fumble recovery by COC defensive back Zach Santos stole away the Marauders' momentum, but AVC struck with 2:43 left in the game on a 54-yard touchdown pass from Perez to Charles Johnson.

Jones answered by taking the onside kick unmolested into the end zone for a score.

"I just saw the ball, went after it and there was no one in front of me so I just kept running," Jones said.

Iverson turned out the lights with a 39-yard scoring sprint with just 16 seconds left in the game.

"I got to the red zone, and I got super hungry," Iverson said.

Antelope Valley College hasn't won a bowl game since it defeated Glendale College in the K-Swiss Classic II in 1993.

AVC second-year head coach Perry Jehlicka said his Marauders put forth the effort, but the Cougars were just too strong.

"We kept fighting, and then they'd make a few plays and we'd try and fight back in," Jehlicka said. "In the fourth quarter, they just made more big plays than we did."

One of those Cougars making big plays was defensive lineman Jackson, who had 11 tackles (10 unassisted), an interception and a pass breakup. Jackson, a freshman, was named conference Defensive Player of the Year.

"It's the start of playoffs. You've got to renew yourself," Jackson said. "Ten-and-0, it doesn't count. You've got to come out with a little bigger flame, to go in and try to end it."

11-24-08

Power Grab at DuPage

Periodically, colleges debate such questions as the future of the curriculum, the role of the student newspaper, how outside speakers should be selected, and so forth. At the College of DuPage, a community college outside of Chicago, the board recently proposed major overhauls on all these issues with a common theme — power that currently rests elsewhere would be moved to the trustees.

Not only did the board set out to change the power structure at the college, but it moved to adopt as official college policy a version of David Horowitz's controversial "Academic Bill of Rights."

Last week, faculty members and students — the latter with tape over their mouths to symbolize what they say the trustees are doing to their freedoms — flocked to a board meeting to protest the plans that appear to be dividing the college. Not only do the critics say that academic freedom is in danger, but they charge that the board's policies in some instances would violate state law.

Both faculty members and students say that the proposed overhaul of most college rules adds to uncertainty about the college and its leadership. The past two presidents of the college have been ousted with minimal explanation (a new president has just been appointed). And the chair of the board of the college this year sued three former board members, charging them with defamation in their allegations of sexual harassment against him — charges he denies.

As unusual as it is to have a board member sue ex-trustees and to see back-to-back presidencies ending mysteriously, the current debate seems to be upsetting more people at DuPage because it speaks directly to what goes on in the classrooms and on campus every day. "This is really an attempt by the board to gain complete control over everything," said Glenn Hansen, a professor of photography who is president of the College of DuPage Faculty Association, a unit of the National Education Association.

Trustees could not be reached or did not respond for comment about this article. But Kory Atkinson, one of the trustees who wrote the controversial plans, told *The Naperville Sun* that there was "a lot of unjustified paranoia and suspicion regarding the board and its policies"; that "there's not much to be concerned about" and that "90 percent of the proposed manual is noncontroversial."

Many of the 230 planned changes in policy are indeed noncontroversial. But amid all the routine updates are changes that stunned faculty members. Indeed, DuPage is probably not the only college where professors would object if what was billed as a routine updating of board rules ended up including the Academic Bill of Rights.

That document, framed as a measure to protect academic freedom, is widely viewed by professors as an attack on their autonomy because of its call for faculty members to expose students to a wide variety of views on most topics and its implication that there is a widespread problem of faculty members punishing job candidates or students whose political views differ from their own. Faculty groups say that the measure would lead to professors constantly looking over their shoulders, make it impossible for them to express strong views, and force them to include conservative interpretations of everything or face criticism for not doing so.

In the board's list of policy changes, the section that mirrors the Academic Bill of Rights is not labeled as such; it is simply called "Educational Philosophy," and faculty members say that they were not told that the board wanted to include this measure. But the section (Section 25-135 if you follow [this link](#) and go toward the bottom) largely mirrors the language drafted by Horowitz.

A letter to the board from the faculty association notes that the trustees have never (in public) debated the Academic Bill of Rights or expressed concerns to professors about the issues it claims to address, and questions why the measure was "surreptitiously" included in the update of board rules. The letter notes that the college has a policy in place that allows students to file complaints if they believe a professor is treating them unfairly and that no complaints are known to have been filed raising concerns about political or other viewpoint discrimination.

Referring to the Academic Bill of Rights by its acronym, the letter says: "ABOR supporters apparently hope that the bill will give elected officials the power to dictate, for example, whether creationism should be taught alongside evolution in college biology. Let us be clear: The [College of DuPage] faculty supports teaching conflicting views on a subject where those views are supported by sufficient evidence. But it is the responsibility of college professors, who are trained experts in their fields, to evaluate that evidence. It's not the job of politicians.... Given the controversial nature of ABOR and its lack of acceptance in Illinois, it's especially troubling that the Board would try to use a revision in Board policies to impose it ... without due debate or consideration."

Adding to the concerns of professors are statements in the proposed revisions that give the board exclusive power over the curriculum, the initial pay of individual faculty members, and all educational programs. While there are some references to the board seeking input of faculty members, statement after statement says that the board has full power. Hansen, in an interview, said that professors understood that the board has ultimate authority, but that the phrasing of many proposed changes undercuts the norms of shared governance, where the faculty role in educational matters is much more than an opportunity to provide an opinion. The board appears to be moving beyond the traditional role for setting broad policy, he said, when it demands approval of pay for every faculty member.

The letter from faculty leaders to the board also notes that shared governance is an idea embraced not only by professors but by the college's accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Still other provisions attracted the most anger from students, who say that the board appears to want to limit their exposure to ideas and their ability to express them. One proposed rule gives

the board the right to approve or reject all proposed outside speakers, and the right to control the way speaker events are planned.

Another proposed rule change would put control of the content of the student newspaper — currently students have autonomy, but work with an adviser — directly under the college's president. It is hard to believe it is a coincidence, Hansen said, that this provision should appear after board members have complained that the student newspaper, *The Courier*, is sometimes critical of trustees.

The Courier asked for advice from the Student Press Law Center, and that organization wrote back that the board would be foolish to adopt the proposed policy change because doing so would probably violate Illinois law and freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. Illinois has a strong statute protecting the rights of college newspapers not to be subject to direct control by administrations, noted the [letter from Frank D. LoMonte](#), executive director of the center.

LoMonte, noting that the proposed new rule directly followed comments from board members about critical coverage, said that the newspaper would have little legal difficulty showing that it was being punished for exercising its free speech — and that such punishment would likely be found to violate the First Amendment.

Following the meeting with faculty members speaking out and students taping their mouths shut, board members said that they would be happy to talk more before adopting all the rules changes. But they also insisted that there was nothing wrong with what they were proposing.

— [Scott Jasch](#)

The Daily News

Promise of college for all Californians shrinking

By Connie Llanos, Staff Writer

11/29/2008

In 1959, as California enjoyed the fruits of more than a decade of post-World War II prosperity, state leaders created the Higher Education Master Plan to make sure every Californian had access to college.

The plan guaranteed admission to the University of California system for the top 12 1/2 percent of the state's high school graduates, the top third could get seats in what became the California State University system, and everyone could enroll in community colleges.

Over the past five decades, the master plan has weathered financial crises that have slowly chipped away at its goals. Now, amid the worst economic crisis in decades, some question whether the state's ambitious higher-education promise can be sustained, and others say it's already history.

"The master plan is dead," said Harry Hellenbrand, the provost at California State University, Northridge. "We just haven't had the ceremony to bury it."

This month, CSU officials announced plans to cut enrollment by some 10,000 students statewide, including about 1,100 at CSUN.

The latest economic woes couldn't come at a worse time. College applications are at an all-time high, and most educators say the state needs to greatly expand - not shrink - the number of educational opportunities for young and old alike.

But the state budget crisis and generally sour economic conditions have forced a much-needed reality check on officials running the state's higher-education system, some policy analysts say. They say a new plan could bring relief to a system that has been trying to do and be too much at too many places.

"We are the only state in the country that is maintaining 10 research institutions. That's a really good thing, but if we have to focus on one priority, that should be making sure that every young person in California is educated," said Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Education.

"Maybe we don't need to be building expensive research universities where there is no population," he added, referring to the UC system's newest campus - at Merced - which has seen limited enrollment since it opened.

Callan said the successive economic downturns have "sufficiently eroded the master plan."

And higher education's slice of the total state budget has dropped from 17 percent in the mid-1970s to 10 percent today.

To save the master plan's core, California educators should look at new ways of fulfilling the state's mission, Callan said. UC institutions could focus on educating more students, rather than investing in research, and tenured professors could spend more time teaching undergraduate studies, he suggested.

CSU campuses could also look at maximizing their potential, and more funding could be given to community colleges, which serve the largest number of students.

For years, critics of the state's expensive higher-education system - the world's largest of its type - have said college is not for everyone, and many in vocational trades have asked that more attention be given to their programs.

Cesar Diaz, deputy legislative director for the State Building Trades Council, said pressure for a general rethinking of the state's master plan could be a bright side of dark times.

"What we have right now is a one-size-fits-all plan that doesn't take into account different learning abilities," he said.

Diaz said perhaps the reality of shrinking space at traditional four-year institutions could motivate more high school students to enter well-paid vocational careers.

But UC student regent D'Artagnan Scorza said the state must not lose sight of its goal of making bachelor's degrees possible for its residents who want to earn them.

"Maybe we could take some community college campuses and use them as CSU campuses, to allow more students to get their bachelor's," Scorza said.

He also suggested that a new master plan should focus on how to serve the state's growing minority population.

What Scorza insisted should not be changed is the fundamental principles of the master plan.

"When we are spending \$46,000 a year on a prisoner for a low-level drug charge and \$11,000 a year for a student who attends a UC, we have some serious problems," Scorza said.

Facing looming enrollment cuts, university officials remain hopeful that their funding - and the master plan - will find a way to make it through the economic downturn.

"We believe the master plan is a document that has served the state well, and we are still committed to the plan, but we also realize some elements are under stress," UC spokesman Ricardo Vasquez said.

But the state's grim financial prospects are discouraging. The growing deficit, which could reach \$28 billion by 2010, is forcing CSU campuses to slash enrollment. And the UC system has threatened to cut its enrollment if it doesn't receive an additional \$122million from the state to fund enrollment growth.

So far, proposals to increase student tuition have been avoided in this latest downturn. But if history is a guide, it's just a matter of time before they come.

"We've balanced the books on the backs of parents and students," said Marty Haberman, executive director of the California Post-secondary Commission, who said the master plan did not just call for campuses throughout the state. "If it's not affordable, it's not really accessible," he said.

With a decline in state funding, most CSU schools have begun fundraising, an activity that was once prohibited, Hellenbrand noted.

In the past decade, such efforts at CSUN have doubled, averaging about \$20 million a year. While some money has gone to fund amenities for the Valley campus, such as the \$100 million Valley Performing Arts Center now under construction, most of the money has gone to updating campus materials, including new computers for digital media training and new science laboratory equipment for the school's cancer research program and nanotechnology lab.

And despite all the challenges, many argue that the state's higher education system must be essentially preserved if California is to retain its status as a vanguard state.

California's higher-education plan was the first of its kind and remains unique, said Charles Lenth, vice president and policy analyst of the State Higher Education Executive Officers.

"It may need to be updated, but the future of the state, in terms of a growing economy, very much depends on the level of skills and knowledge that are produced by higher education. ... For those decisions to be driven by budgetary constraints would be devastating."