

EDUCATION CUTS

Cabrillo to cut \$3 million by Aug. 1

Additional \$4 million to \$6 million in cuts planned for 2012-2013

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APTOS — As Cabrillo College students look forward to summer and, in some cases, transferring to a four-year college for the fall, the college administration will be locked up in meetings going over the books to see where \$3 million can be cut from an already tightly pruned budget.



KING

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The general operating budget at Cabrillo for 2010-2011 is \$59 million, down \$5.6 million since 2008, according to Cabrillo Vice President of Administrative Service Victoria Lewis.

For the first time since successive yearly cuts began in 2008, eliminating entire programs is on the table.

"We are having very painful discussions about the process and criteria should program elimination become possible," Faculty Senate President Steve Hodges said. "It's a very difficult conversation, but necessary if those cuts are required."

At least six temporary faculty members have been given notice that they may not be retained for next year, with final determinations to be made by May 15.

The down economy has

affected the college of about 15,000 students in every area. Classes have been cut and vacant positions have not been filled. The \$6 million Green Technology Center, set to open in Watsonville in spring 2012, needs \$500,000 in equipment. Even the campus bookstore has seen revenue drop.

"The task we face together is completely unprecedented in Cabrillo's 52-year history," Cabrillo President Brian King said in a campuswide letter sent April 19. "We all hoped for the 'best-case scenario' budget, but are now being told by those in the best position to know that the worst-case scenario is currently the most likely outcome."

Gov. Jerry Brown's budget plan includes a \$400 million cut to the state's community college system. Part of the governor's

plan involves allowing voters to decide on a series of tax extensions to help close the state's \$26.6 billion budget deficit. If the extensions are not passed, the cuts could double.

"Regardless of what happens in Sacramento the \$3 million in reductions need to be done," Cabrillo President Brian King said Monday.

When Brown gives more information on the state budget later this month, Cabrillo should get a better idea of what cuts are needed for 2012-2013, King said.

By the June 13 Board of Governors meeting, the college should have a preliminary 2011-2012 budget in place and the \$3 million in reductions will come before the Board Aug. 1. The cuts for 2012-2013 are expected by February 2012.