COLLEGE CUTS

Cabrillo Nears Budget Target for 2011-2012

More drastic cuts on the horizon

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APTS — Cabrillo College administrators and other campus leaders are nearing a budget reduction target of $3.44 million for 2011-2012, with the cuts to be presented for a vote to the Board of Governors on Aug. 1, but harder decisions, and deeper cuts, are looming.

On Wednesday, members of the College Planning Council voted to recommend the approval of a 10 percent reduction in the contract for a senior account specialist, which will bring savings of $10,154.

"It’s an unfortunate cut," Planning Council member and Communication Program Chairman Dan Rothwell said. "It’s a small cut, but pretty much all cuts are unfortunate now."

A larger debate was held over the stark numbers before them now that the state budget has passed — and $400 million in state funding was eliminated from California Community Colleges.

The magnitude of reductions for the coming school year was diminished by the use of $3.4 million in reserves to help bridge the gap.

Yet, preliminary figures for the 2012-13 budget year, prepared by Victoria Lewis, Cabrillo’s vice president of administrative services, show a projected deficit of nearly $6.6 million.

There was a common sentiment among the planning council that at some point, as cuts have become a yearly occurrence since 2008, the college leadership must take time to look at the broader picture and decide what Cabrillo can accomplish with its new levels of funding.

"It’s hard to talk about," Rothwell said. "Planning has become synonymous with cutting. There’s no planning here that’s creative or exciting."