

CABRILLO BUDGET

College catches breath before next round of cuts

By TOVIN LAPAN

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APTOS — At the last Cabrillo College board meeting on Aug. 1, when the 2011-2012 budget was finalized, for a brief moment the faculty, staff and administration allowed themselves a pat on the back after closing a nearly \$5 million budget hole due to state funding cuts.

But no one was smiling, and no one was in the mood to celebrate. Classes had been cut and 14 full-time positions were eliminated.

"I congratulate everybody that we've gotten through 11-12, but I think what worries all of the board and all of campus is 12-13 and 13-14. That's a huge number," board member Gary Reece said at the time.

Those numbers are a \$3.4 million projected structural deficit for 2012-2013, and a \$6.5 million projected deficit for 2013-2014.

On Wednesday, the College Planning Council, a group of faculty, staff, students and administrators that reviews budget decisions before they are presented to the board, caught its breath before embarking on the next round of painful cuts.

Everyone acknowledges that tough decisions are ahead, and as class offerings inevitably decrease students will need more structure to guarantee they are progressing toward concrete aca-

IF YOU GO

CABRILLO BUDGET
TOWN HALL MEETINGS

WHAT: Cabrillo is facing deep budget cuts for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. Two town hall meetings have been scheduled to provide a comprehensive overview of the fiscal challenges ahead.

WHEN: 3 p.m., Sept 21; 11 a.m. Sept. 22

WHERE: Sesnon House, Cabrillo College Aptos campus, 6500 Soquel Drive

INFORMATION: www.cabrillo.edu/internal/adminservices/budgetcenter/

demical goals.

"The question is: Can we go from everything for everyone to enough for everyone?" Vice President of Instruction Renee Kilmer said in advocating for a more structured two-year program for students who want to transfer to a four-year college.

The cuts needed for this coming school year were abated with the use of \$3.4 million in reserves, a luxury the school will not have next year with reserves projected to be \$1.2 million.

While the specter of entire program cuts looms over the campus, and a committee was set up to look at that very

issue, President Brian King said that is not how the budget will be balanced.

"Program elimination is a multiyear process, you don't balance the budget that way," King said. "All of our programs are valuable programs. The harder challenge is looking at course mix. Maybe the courses that are electives, and are of a more personal interest than a requirement, we should be offering in the community education side."

Hundreds of classes have already been eliminated in the past three years, and while general requirements for transferring to California's public four-year universities are relatively straightforward, students often need certain electives at Cabrillo to transfer to private universities.

"You have to remember what universities want," Student President Charlotte Achen said. "For me, I have to take two philosophy courses to keep my options open for the schools I want to transfer to. With shrinking the class offerings, you have to think of that. That means a student may not be able to transfer to a specific school."

Before budget discussions get under way in earnest for 2012-2013, the campus will have a chance to weigh in.

Two budget town hall meetings are scheduled for Sept. 21 and 22 where the administration will offer an overview of the fiscal challenges ahead.