Trustees vote to eliminate 13 positions

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APTONS — In an effort to trim $2.5 million from the current year to avoid a deficit double that size next academic year, Cabrillo College’s Board of Trustees agreed on some layoffs Monday and will face another round next month.

Board members approved a resolution Monday calling for the elimination of 10 full-time equivalencies spread out over 13 positions, three of which are currently vacant. This includes the elimination of three management positions: public safety director, student health center director and the children’s center director. Hours will be reduced for a laboratory assistant in computer technology at the Watsonville campus, as well.

A second round of layoffs to be considered at the board’s May 7 meeting would cut the equivalent of five full-time positions, including a photography laboratory technician. Fellow photo lab tech Janet Fine spoke against the proposed elimination of her colleague, which she says would hurt the students and create a host of other problems.

“The cut is devastating to our program,” she said. “It’s like cutting off an arm to swat a fly.”

Other positions that would be cut under the proposal include the evening tool room technician in the visual arts department. The public safety program coordinator would be reduced from full-time to 50 percent, and the performing arts complex assistant could also see a reduction in hours.

Also at Monday’s meeting, a number of members of the classified employees union, most wearing matching shirts with the union logo, spoke out against what they see as a breakdown in labor relations.

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