The beat goes on for Cabrillo journalism

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APTOS — Recently on the brink of reduction and possibly elimination, Cabrillo College’s Journalism department received a donation of eight units from the college’s English department, allowing the program some safety through 2013.

“Looks like we’re in business for a year,” said Brad Kava, chair of the Journalism department.

With Cabrillo looking to slice a $5.6 million structural deficit for the 2012-13 school year by $2.5 million, three academic programs — journalism, real estate and welding — are expected to be hit the hardest, although journalism can be taken off the list for now. The three programs were considered the least valuable out of the college’s 20 departments, based on the Program Reduction and Discontinuance criteria that was formed last year. Journalism ranked 18th out of the 20 departments in the criteria’s efficiency category.

However, the efficiency rating doesn’t accurately convey the program, Kava said, citing that many of his students, past and former, currently have jobs in all types of media.

The journalism department currently offers 24 units, but upcoming cuts would have dropped it to 16 if not for the English department’s donation.

“There wasn’t much we could do with 16,” Kava said.

With the 8 unit donation, Jour-