Board OKs cutting 22 positions

Another 3 planned; course offerings likely will be reduced

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APTOS — Belt-tightening continues at Cabrillo College, with up to 25 faculty and staff positions likely to be reduced, eliminated or left unfilled, and dozens of course offerings cut.

The Board of Trustees discussed reducing or eliminating three more positions at Monday’s meeting — a library instructional assistant and two laboratory positions. The meeting was the last before the new budget is adopted June 11.

The proposed cuts come on top of the reduction or elimination of 22 other positions, including the college’s public safety director, student health center director and the children’s center director. Those cuts, discussed in April and approved at Monday’s meeting, will become effective next month, according to Cabrillo spokeswoman Kristin Fabos.

If the three additional cuts are approved, that brings the total positions affected to 25, which college administrators estimate will save Cabrillo about $1 million. Cabrillo’s budget this year is $54.7 million, but the board needs to shave $2.5 million to avoid entering 2012-13 with a $3.2 million deficit.

The new budget, Fabos said, “will definitely be less, but by how much, I don’t know.”

Gov. Jerry Brown will unveil his revised 2012-13 state budget Monday. Cabrillo administrators are bracing for bad news.

Cabrillo also plans reductions in other areas to close the gap, such as eliminating 60 course offerings for a savings of almost $226,000. Among the hardest-hit programs are public safety, welding and real estate.

In other business, Katy Stonebloom, the trustee for Area 7, resigned at Monday’s meeting. Fabos said, because she is moving outside of the district. The resignation was effective immediately, and details are still being worked out to find a replacement.

However, Fabos said anyone interested in filling the position can apply through June 1.

Stonebloom’s resignation is the second departure from the board in four months. In January, longtime trustee Rebecca Garcia resigned, saying it was time for her to step aside and “let somebody else move the work forward from a new perspective.” She had served on the board for 20 years.

She was replaced by Margarita Cortez, the executive director of the Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Watsonville.

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