Higher Education

Cabrillo trustees to vote on fourth round of reductions

College faces $2 million shortfall

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WATSONVILLE — The Cabrillo College Governing Board will be asked to vote at next month’s meeting to tighten its financial belt yet another notch by approving a fourth round of reductions.

Victoria Lewis, the college’s vice president of administrative services, explained at Monday’s board meeting that Cabrillo will dip into reserves to bridge a $4.6 million shortfall in 2012-13. But that still leaves a $2 million deficit, and the board will be asked to approve eliminating 152 teaching units and five vacant positions, as well as nine currently filled positions, for a total savings of about $1 million.

At least some of the other $1 million is expected to come in the form of concessions from Cabrillo faculty and staff. At Monday’s meeting, the board

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unanimously approved a compensation proposal from managers and administrators in which they agree, at least in concept, to pick up more of the costs of their medical, dental, life and disability insurance and take seven furlough days.

That would save the school nearly $100,000, but those concessions are contingent on whether a similar agreement can be reached with the faculty member union.

Brian King, Cabrillo’s president, said the college is “continuing to discuss options with the employee groups to get closer to that $2 million goal,” adding, “every round is hard and the board’s goal is to do what we can to limit the impact on our students.”

Ahead of that discussion, a representative from the Cabrillo Classified Employee Union reiterated union members’ frustration over labor negotiations, but that union members will launch a campaign soon to help pass Gov. Jerry Brown’s tax initiative in November.

That initiative would raise about $8.5 billion for education and public safety. The final budget will come before the board in September, however, two months before voters go to the polls. The budget

Lewis is preparing is based on the assumption that the initiative will fail, but that the state will find another way to come up with additional revenue.

Monday’s meeting, the first of the fall semester, was held at the new Solaris Green Technology Center in Watsonville. The fall semester begins Aug. 27.

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