Cabrillo searching for new VP of instruction

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APTOS — Citing lingering health issues, Cabrillo College’s vice president of instruction resigned last week, and administrators hope to find a replacement as soon as possible, the Board of Trustees learned at Monday’s meeting.

“The search is already under way and we hope to find a replacement by the beginning of the spring semester,” Cabrillo President Brian King said of Renee Kilmer. “We’ve been very fortunate to have her leadership for the last seven years and she will be greatly missed.”

King also briefly discussed the latest census numbers for the fall semester, which show a larger-than-expected drop. This fall, 13,055 part- and full-time students are enrolled, about 1 percent fewer than administrators had anticipated, and down 4.2 percent from last fall, said Kristin Fabos, Cabrillo’s head of communications.

King told the board cutting course sections will no longer produce significant savings, since state-funded higher education institutions receive their funding based on enrollment. In November, voters will be asked to approve Prop. 30, which would raise millions for schools through a temporary increase in the sales tax and on high-income earners. If that initiative fails, King said, “we’ll need to discuss raising student fees.”

In other business, the board unanimously appointed five residents — Ceil Cirillo, Brian Mathias, Ronald Kaplan, Kathy Blackwood, Joseph Watkins — to a committee whose task is to oversee expenditures of a bond measure voters passed in 2004.

Measure D is a 30-year measure that adds $16 each year per $100,000 in assessed property value to property owners’ tax bills. The committee includes representatives from a wide swath of the community, including business, students and a taxpayer association.

Some of the Measure D funds already have been used to pay for the construction of three buildings in the arts education complex that opened in 2008, while others were used for the new green technology center in Watsonville.

The funds also will be used to renovate the building that once housed administrative services and student services into a state-of-the-art facility for engineering and technology. Construction will start in the next couple months and continue through the summer, with classes beginning in the fall.

The board also approved a contract that covers executive administrators. Like the manager and administrator groups before them, their contract includes five furlough days that will be taken in early and mid-January.

Those groups have agreed to pick up more of the costs for their medical and dental plans and other benefits, potentially saving up to $281,000 across all employee groups, including classified employees.

However, negotiations with that group are ongoing, and a new contract has not yet been signed. Alta Northcutt, the union’s president, has said a new contract likely will be in place by November.

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