Board of Trustees to appoint interim president

By KIMBERLY WHITE

APTOS — With Cabrillo College President Brian King on the cusp of departure, an interim president is expected to be appointed at Monday’s Board of Trustees meeting, even as a subcommittee continues searching for a permanent replacement.

King will serve through the rest of January, then start his new position as chancellor of Los Rios Community College District in Sacramento. A new president is expected to be named before the start of the fall semester.

At Monday’s meeting, King will provide a budget update for the current year, as well as for 2013-14. But officials still are reviewing Gov. Jerry Brown’s budget proposal announced Thursday. Cabrillo officials will learn more about how the state’s budget will affect its own at a workshop in Sacramento next week, and Victoria Lewis, Cabrillo’s vice president of administrative services, will provide an update with preliminary figures at a meeting the following week.

Brown has proposed a nearly $98 billion budget for 2013-14, with $197 million allocated to the state’s 112-campus community college system, according to figures included in the budget. That’s a 5 percent increase over 2012-13, and under his plan, the funds will be used to restore courses, strengthen programs and keep costs manageable for students.

The budget also includes an additional $179 million in previous funding commitments from the state that were deferred as the state struggled to get back on its feet. To view the full budget, which has a subsection dedicated to higher education, go to www.ebudget.ca.gov. It is slated to be revised in May.

“At first blush, it appears to be a mix of good news coupled with some major policy proposals that will require more time to consider,” Lewis wrote in an email to administrators.

The proposal calls for more online courses, and allocating funding based more on the number of students who complete courses rather than the total number enrolled at the beginning of the term. It also calls for more funding for career-technical training in green energy fields and apprenticeships with conservation programs, and adjusting the fee-waiver program to ensure only financially needy students benefit.

Like other K-12 districts and higher education institutions across the state, Cabrillo officials were relieved with November’s passage of Proposition 30, which will raise billions for education and community services through temporary tax increases. The measure prevented $3.2 million in midyear cuts from going into effect this month at Cabrillo, and was partly responsible for 42 additional class offerings in the spring.

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