APTOS -- Cabrillo College is poised to offer a new degree and certification program that prepares students for management positions in the sustainable-energy field, with a focus on construction and solar-derived energy.

The new energy management program would start in the fall and is among a number of changes to that semester's course offerings the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve at Monday's meeting.

If approved, students must complete 60 units to obtain an associate of science degree and 27 units for a certificate. The other offerings in art history, criminal justice and seven other disciplines are all part of the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act bill passed in 2010 that allows students to transfer to the California State University System college, according to Kristin Fabos, Cabrillo's spokeswoman.

Meanwhile, enrollment for full-term classes closed last week, but students still can register for dozens of shorter-term and online courses. Preliminary figures indicate a 4 percent drop in enrollment this spring compared with last spring, according to the board packet.

Final numbers for the spring census will not be available until next week. But Fabos attributed the drop to students' mistaken belief that if they waited until the last minute to enroll, they would be turned away and did not bother to try. That may have been the case in recent years, but since voters passed Proposition 30 in November, "we need to let people know classes are available, we have openings, so come back to us," she added.

In addition to approving changes to the fall semester of courses, the board also will hear an update on the 2013-14 budget following a Feb. 27 college planning council meeting. The college is expected to fill eight full-time faculty positions this year, also a result of Proposition 30 funding, and receive $700,000 in restoration funding from the state, according to information in the board packet.

The number of faculty Cabrillo can employ has been frozen since the recession started in 2008. But with the financial picture improving, from 15 to 20 new faculty members are expected to be hired by 2014-15, Fabos said.

But at the same time, some temporary faculty are expected to receive pink slips next month. The board will be asked to approve notices of non-re-employment for six temporary faculty whose positions are funded through such categorical programs as the STEM program -- an acronym that stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics -- by the March 15 state-mandated deadline. But Fabos said it's a formality and those positions typically are refunded once the final budget is approved.

Follow Sentinel reporter Kimberly White on Twitter at Twitter.com/kwhite95066

IF YOU GO

CABRILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WHEN: 6 p.m. Monday

WHERE: 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos -- Sesnon House

INFORMATION: 831-479-6201 or www.cabrillo.edu