RCC budget recommended for approval

The Rogue Community College Budget Committee moved Tuesday toward finalizing a $26,994,604 operating budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed budget to the RCC Board of Education. Forecasts call for the college’s revenue to slide 4.3 percent below the current year’s level, forcing RCC to cut about $2.7 million in expenses. The revenue shortfall is due in part to a nearly $900,000 reduction in state funding, according to Lynda Warren, executive dean of College Services.

To balance the budget, RCC has chopped expenses and raised tuition. Fourteen vacant positions are not being filled, and the budget calls for a zero increase in materials and services, cuts to the district’s travel budget and unemployment reserves, and reduction in publication costs that will trim approximately $1 million dollars.

The $5 per credit increase in tuition, which raises the cost of one credit from $59 to $64 beginning summer term, will generate about $600,000 and represents approximately $60 per term additional costs for a full-time student.

Negotiations with faculty and classified staff associations are still in progress over compensation-related issues, including a projected 2 percent increase in personnel costs, said Warren.

The RCC Budget Committee is comprised of the seven RCC Board of Education members and six advisory committee members. The RCC Board is scheduled to adopt the budget June 20. Information about the budget is online at www.roguecc.edu/budget/2006_07/approved.

Following the budget committee meeting, the RCC Board of Education:

• Appointed Jerry and Sharon Work to the Advisory Board to replace Carl Wilson. The Works, who will serve jointly on the panel, live in the Illinois Valley. Jerry Work retired from a career in technology management and Sharon Work has been active in many community service organizations. They own Dovetail Joint, a woodworking studio and gallery in Kerby.

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- Renewed contracts for the college’s 45 full-time managers.

- Accepted a $2,500 grant from Area Health Education Center of Southwest Oregon for the Medical Healthcare Interpreter training.

- Approved granting in-state residency status for students who are enrolled members of federally recognized tribes of Oregon, regardless of their state of residence.

- Approved continuing a contract with Hart Insurance to serve as agent of general insurance record.

- Appointed Elements Health Plans, Inc., a corporate health and integrated health plan design firm, as agent of record for employee benefits and insurance.

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