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RCC will reduce student bus pass fee

Rogue Community College is working with Josephine County Transit and Rogue Valley Transportation to reduce bus transportation costs for students.

RCC is applying for grants through both transportation districts that would offset ridership costs for students. The actual availability of grant funds won't be determined until the end of fall term, but anticipating the funds will be received, RCC has agreed to reduce its student bus pass fee from \$80 to \$30 fall term. The RCC Board of Education agreed with the college fee reduction Tuesday.

"Since students are deciding now whether to purchase a bus pass, the board directed administration to work with the transportation districts to see what we could do to obtain additional funding or reduce costs," said Lynda Warren, RCC dean of College Services.

In 2008-09 the college subsidized student ridership at a cost of about \$60,000 a year and last term increased student fees to help offset that cost. But despite a 50 percent jump in summer-term enrollment at RCC, both transit services reported a significant decrease in ridership this summer.

"The transportation districts and the college think this is a direct result of the RCC fee increase," Warren explained. And with record enrollment predicted fall term — as many as 7,500 students are anticipated — RCC worries that parking on or near an RCC campus will be at a premium.

"We want to continue making education accessible for Rogue Valley residents," Warren said. "In addition, riding the bus is better for the environment."

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