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RCC Budget Committee approves 2009-10 budget

The Rogue Community College Budget Committee approved a \$29.2 million budget for 2009-10, just .36 percent greater than the current year's budget.

Scheduled to be adopted June 16 by the RCC Board of Education, the budget was built in anticipation of receiving approximately \$12 million in state funding over the next two years. That amount is in question now, however, because legislative leadership announced Monday it would reducing the budget for community colleges by 15 percent.

Oregon's community colleges received nearly \$500 million in 2007-2009; RCC's share was roughly \$17 million. But Oregon's lawmakers released a budget Monday that sets the Community College Support fund at just \$423 million. For RCC, the difference in state revenue from the current biennium to the next would be nearly \$6 million.

Because of the ailing economy, the college had planned for a reduction in state funding, anticipating a shortfall of about \$2 million in 2009-11.

"We hoped the co-chairs would recommend a Community College Support Fund of \$440 million," said RCC President Peter Angstadt. "At that rate, RCC would have received \$6,329,106 in 2009. If the current co-chairs' budget holds, we're looking at just \$5,852,342 in the first year of the biennium," he explained.

"That really hurts our ability to provide services at a time when enrollment is up over 15 percent. The education and training community colleges provide is essential to Oregonians and to the flailing economy," Angstadt added.

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