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RCC employees vote for salary concessions

Rogue Community College faculty and classified associations have voted to forego step and cost-of-living increases and will take up to six unpaid furlough days in 2009-10. Managers also will take those furlough days and forego any salary increases.

RCC Education Association (RCCEA) and Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) members voted last week in favor of salary concessions for the next fiscal year. RCCEA represents faculty; OSEA represents classified employees including clerical and facilities staff members.

Managers, who are not represented by an association, had been scheduled to receive a one-time stipend in 2008-09 in lieu of a cost-of-living increase but agreed last month to forego the payment, and their salaries will be frozen.

The RCC 2009-10 general-fund budget is \$29.6 million — up slightly over the \$29.2 million originally approved — and was adopted by the RCC Board of Education on June 16. The college built its budget anticipating a statewide Community College Support Fund (CCSF) of \$440 million. RCC's share of that funding is expected to be about \$6 million next year, a decrease of \$2.5 million from the current year.

The six furlough days are expected to save the college as much as \$420,000. If state funding increases, however, the number of furlough days could be reduced.

“Our staff and faculty are heroes,” emphasized RCC President Peter Angstadt, Ph.D. “Overall, they have reduced their compensation so we could use the funding to better serve our students and avoid lay-offs.”

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