RCC Board adopts general fund budget, accepts $150,000 National Science Foundation grant

Despite uncertainty about state funding, the Rogue Community College Board of Education on Tuesday adopted a $33.9 million general fund budget for 2010-11, up 14.3 percent over the current year.

Lynda Warren, chief financial officer and dean of Administrative Services, said the college originally anticipated receiving $6.3 million in state revenue but recently learned it could lose between $600,000 and $1.2 million.

However, record-setting enrollment this year and anticipation that robust enrollment will continue prompted college officials to budget for $11,609,264 in tuition and fees, up almost 22 percent over 2009-10.

“Based on summer enrollment and financial aid applications for next year, we revised the budget to reflect enrollment equal to this year rather than the 3.72 percent decline we were originally projecting,” Warren said. “This will help offset the state reduction.”

RCC has seen a 20 percent increase in students this year for a full-time equivalent of 5,900 students. The growing demand for services prompted the college to set aside $500,000 next year to hire more part-time faculty and additional staff in the RCC financial aid department.

The college also increased its grant and contract fund after receiving a $150,000 National Science Foundation grant. The NSF grant supports a community college and high school algebra project that involves 14 local high schools and the Southern Oregon Education Service District. The goal is to improve students’ math skills so they are better prepared for college and, ultimately, as career and technical education technicians in the workforce.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a one-year extension of President Peter Angstadt’s contract. At Angstadt’s request, the contract extension included six unpaid furlough days and no increase in salary. “Dr. Angstadt received accolades from all the groups we contacted while conducting his annual evaluation,” said board member Pat Ashley, who chaired the president’s evaluation committee. “We’re proud to have you as our president,” added Joseph Zagorski, chairman of the RCC Board of Education.

(more)
• Approved a one-year lease for additional classroom space in Medford. The college will use the 5,835-square-foot facility, which is adjacent to the RCC’s G Building, 125 S. Central Ave., to continue offering health and physical education classes while remodeling two other college-owned buildings on the Riverside Campus. The $3,750 monthly lease begins July 1 and will be paid from bond funds.

• Approved an agreement to accept capital construction funds from the state totaling $1,250,000. The funds, similar to the “Go Oregon” state stimulus funding, will be used for renovations, repairs and replacement work on college-owned buildings.

###
N10-90