

Lane Community College Employees Federation

Local 2417, American Federation of Teachers; AFL-CIO; AFT-Oregon;
P.O. Box 7275, Eugene, OR 97401-0012



Board of Education and Budget Update

4/19/2017

Budget Update – Employee Meetings

We are tracking 10 contracted classified staff that could potentially need a new job assignment on July 1st or October 1st:

- four employees in the Work Force Department – Career Center have been notified of a closure of the department. Not funded in the proposed budget.
- three employees in Information Technology that have been notified that their jobs are tied to the increase in the Technology Fee. Jobs funded by an increase in a student fee.
- one employee has been helping out as a floater for employees on medical backfill. There is a need to find this employee a permanent position.
- two employees in Lane Family Connections whose grant funding is ending on September 30th due to program structuring outside of Lane. Funding ends due to program restructure.

Budget Hearing Update

There was a packed house last night as an estimated 250-300 students, staff and community members provided testimony to the Board of Education about the 2017-18 College Budget. 145 people signed up to testify before the Board of Education. Because of this large number the Board offered to get through as much testimony as possible and pick back up the next evening where they left off. Several people left with this understanding—believing they would have the opportunity the next day. Later in the evening the Board changed the plan and offered the opportunity for people to speak at the upcoming Budget Committee meetings. This means that many who came were not able to speak, despite the meeting going until well after 10:00pm. Here is an outline of some of the testimony heard this evening:

Health Clinic – Health Clinic staff provided testimony about the critical and integrated services provided by clinic staff. Classified staff are potentially impacted, as it has now become clear that the future of the Health Clinic is tied to the increase of the student fee that currently supports the clinic. The current fee is \$12 per term and it is proposed that the fee be increased to \$45 per term. This will move the Health Clinic to self-support status with no General Fund dollars, only indirect support.

ASLCC President – ASLCC believes it is important to balance the budget with less dependence on raising tuition and making program cuts. Robert Kirkpatrick wants the Board of Education to focus on keeping education affordable and accessible.

LCCEA President – LCCEA focused on the importance of focusing on maintaining programs that do raise revenue through FTE reimbursements, tuition and fees. The Board of Education needs to make sure they look at not only the costs, but also revenues of all programs. In addition, there is a need to look at management vacancies as a part of the budget balancing strategy.

Early Childhood Education – Several speakers focused on the need to hire quality childhood education teachers in the community. Most of the quality early childhood teachers come from the LCC program. Comments on the perceived correlation between the low unemployment rate and the decrease in enrollment at the college were made,

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especially around the increased need for childcare providers with many community members returning to work who need childcare. Employment statements were made from the director of the Relief Nursery and the University of Oregon Child Center. Both stated they rely totally on the graduates of the Early Childhood Education program.

Counseling – The need for support services for retention and mental health support. There is a need for support that spans a broad spectrum; from those in crisis to teaching life skills. It is important to understand the holistic health and well being of the student. Counselors are integral to student retention, but also in trying to help those who might be a risk to themselves or to others. Many students are facing issues that put them at risk before they even start at LCC: poverty, disability, mental health, lack of housing, and many other barriers. Supporting students and helping to retain them is cheaper than spending the funds to recruit new students. Counselors are an integral part of the retention.

Respiratory Care – Lung disease is the number three killer in the United States. There is job growth of approximately 15% over the next 3 years. A recent Google search indicates there are 200+ open jobs in Oregon and Washington. The number of retirements of respiratory therapists nationwide outpaces the number of students entering programs to become respiratory therapists. The lead doctor at Peace Health Hospital for respiratory therapy states it is important that the LCC program remains to support this community. Many of the respiratory therapists at the hospital graduated from Lane Community College. Many of the respiratory therapists in the valley are from Lane's program. 70-80% of the respiratory therapists at Good Samaritan Hospital are from the Lane program. It is important the college promotes the respiratory care program, as it is a hidden program. Respiratory therapists make a strong living wage. There was interesting testimony about the option of having Oregon Institute of Technology take over the program as was done at Rogue CC recently. A 4-year Bachelor of Science degree program option may help with enrollment with this partnership.

Geographic Information Systems – GIS systems are used by many agencies to handle emergencies such as power outages, crime data, tax plots and urban planning. GIS classes support many college disciplines including geography, drafting, engineering, watershed sciences, and computer science. Additional disciplines are working on adding important GIS classes to their programs including criminal justice and the new proposed drone program. GIS specialists, technicians and database analysts are all in growth areas that are predicted to grow within the industry by 35% over the next few years.

Design and Media Center – Testimony was provided in support of the student fees – the Technology Fee and the Online Course Fee – that will provide support of the Design and Media Center. The technology staff that support this Public Comment meeting would be gone (e.g. the technology to conference other campuses in to meetings avoiding a long commute). The online classes that benefit from the technology are also at risk that sends Health Profession classes to various off campus locations.

Music, Dance and Theater – Support for the music program that integrates local high school musicians into the college concerts; expanding and supporting the arts into the college community. It is important for the viability of the music program to have full time faculty. There is an integration of the music curriculum with the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance.

Exercise and Movement Science – The two year program is an important integrated part of the health community. Cooperative Education classes are an important piece of the program that helps place students in intern positions that lead to jobs. The second year program is where these internships are offered. Testimony provided that 5 of the 8 interns at the Eugene Tennis and Swim Club are LCC graduates. The opportunity to get a national

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accredited certification will help with placement of the 2nd year students. Being able to teach life style skills to those who want and need it the most.

Career Center – Testimony provided made it very clear that with the elimination of the four classified staff in the Career Center, the center will close. That means that there will be no career support, no career life planning, no career fair and no job searching access. The center is key in connecting students to local employers and jobs.

Art History – It is important to understand there are some great changes happening in the arts; specifically in art history. There are opportunities for growth with the online art history and the art history works of arts exchange program. The exchange program will bring honorarium funding in order to bring great works of art to the campus. The important piece is the need to have a faculty member to coordinate the instruction and exchange program.

Philosophy – The program has done a restructure of the classes to increase the enrollment in the classes. The philosophy class enrollments are filling at an average of about 87%. Overall the classes are active and are rebounding after some classes were moved away from lower demand class times.

KLCC FM – The radio station reaches more people in Lane County than any program at the college. The current federal administration is trending toward no longer funding the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The loss of these federal funds and the general fund transfer, puts the radio station at risk with using reserves, less local news reporting and program decreases.

Management – Several testified to the fact that management FTE has increased by about 10% and full time faculty has decreased by about 13%. This is a 23% swing. Management makes up 7% of the total employee headcount, but make up 25% of the employee salaries. It is important that all management additional pay, bonuses and perks are transparent at the same time all of the instructional programs are being thoroughly analyzed.

Multicultural Center – There are concerns that the move away from faculty leadership in the Native American groups will diminish the quality of the program. There are many experiences that might be lost with the restructure of the program.