

State funds up 8%

OCC happy with its share of Milliken's millions

By TIM RICHARD

The state budget may be tight on social services, but community colleges did all right in Gov. William G. Milliken's proposed \$3.9 billion spending plan.

"The range of increase from the state is 7 to 9 percent," said Oakland Community College President Robert F. Roelofs. "Oakland's increase is right in the middle at 8 percent."

"That's good for us. To get up to the average (state aid increase) is gaining. It's considerably better than our history."

WITH ONE OF the largest property tax bases in the state, OCC hasn't always kept pace with the other 28 two-year colleges, Roelofs said in an interview last week.

That's why he considers getting an "average" increase in state aid as making progress.

If Milliken's budget is adopted as proposed, OCC will get \$9.87 million

toward an operating budget expected to be in the \$26 million ballpark.

State budget officials try to calculate the total need for each college, he said, and then subtract a "fair share" tuition and the revenue which would be generated by one mill of the property tax.

What's left is what the college gets. Roelofs said he persuaded budget officials in Lansing to make some technical adjustments in the aid formula so that OCC wouldn't trail the pack in state aid.

THE RESULT was the 8 percent increase for OCC compared to 7.2 percent for Macomb and 6.9 percent for Henry Ford community colleges.

"We've made it to first base," said the OCC president of Milliken's recommendations.

Second and third base will be the house and senate appropriations committees in Lansing. Usually they come up with different versions of aid bills, and those versions are compromised in a conference committee.

"Last year we came out with modestly more than the governor's recommendation," Roelofs said.

Aid formulas are not only complex in themselves, but the fiscal years are different. Community colleges begin their fiscal year July 1; the state's budget begins Oct. 1. Thus, the colleges operate their first three months on the aid formula of the 1979-80 fiscal year.

OCC'S ENROLLMENT for the winter semester is running 9.7 percent ahead of the winter '79 semester, Roelofs told trustees.

Some 19,600 students registered to take more than 138,000 credit hours. In the same semester last year, 126,000 credit hours were taken.

"Most community colleges have had some improvement," the OCC president said, "but not that high. Most are around 6 to 7 percent."

An enrollment increase may be a sign of the times. During a recession, many laid-off persons enter or re-enter college to upgrade their skills.

IN ITS BUSINESS meeting Thursday, the board of trustees:

- Approved a contract with the Oakland Police Academy and the YWCA of Pontiac-Oakland to teach police officers how to deal with rape victims. OCC will receive \$10,100 for its services.

- Accepted donations of a 1974 Cougar from David S. Haynes for the auto technology program at the Auburn Hills campus; a Baldwin organ from Robert Scott for the Highland Lakes campus; miscellaneous computer equipment from David M. Balmar for the Orchard Ridge campus; \$4,320

from 52 employees through payroll deductions; and various gifts of books and cash.

- Approved a contract for Thomas McPhillips to coach men's basketball at Orchard Ridge.

March Ball

The Metropolitan March of Dimes' Eighth Annual Seashell Ball, honoring Detroit's mayor Coleman A. Young, is set for Feb. 9 at the downtown Radisson Cadillac Hotel. General co-chairwomen for the event are sisters Sondra Berlin (left) of Southfield and Florine Mark of Farmington. Undersecretary of the Interior James Joseph will present a "Humanitarian of the Year" award to Young. Entertainment and dancing will accompany cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert. Tickets for the evening are \$100 per person and may be obtained by calling 864-6000.



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