

OCC tuition up \$2 per hour

By TIM RICHARD

Full-time students at Oakland Community College will be paying about 20 percent more in tuition and fees next fall.

The OCC board of trustees Thursday approved a \$24.9 million operating budget, an overall increase of 8.5 percent. President Robert Roelofs said about half the increase was due to inflation, much of the rest to operating new physical education buildings.

The two-year college, with four campuses, projects an actual enrollment decline of 4.4 percent to a total of 10,458 in 1979-80. Trustee Barbara Willing urged the administration to place advertisements to recruit more students.

THE TUITION hike will amount to a flat \$2 per credit hour. The last increase was in 1977.

For residents of the college district, the new rate will be \$16.50 an hour; for non-residents, \$26.50.

Roelofs said OCC's tuition will still be lower than most other community colleges. For example, Schoolcraft College is raising its rates to \$17 and \$27.50 for residents and non-residents, respectively.

Overall, according to administration figures, a student carrying a full load of 31 credit hours in three semesters currently pays \$494. Next year he or she will pay \$597, an increase of 21 percent.

The fee structure is changed more markedly than tuition. Examples:

- Currently, students pay a one-

Enrollment drops, school will cost 20 percent more in fall

time admission fee of \$12. Beginning July 1, they will pay a \$8 registration fee each semester. Roelofs said the admission fee tended to discourage enrollments, and the new registration fee will more accurately reflect the administrative cost of enrolling students.

- Currently, students pay a student activities fee of \$1 per credit hour to a maximum of \$5. As of July 1, they will pay a flat \$10 students services fee, regardless of the number of credit hours they take.

- BUT THEY WILL get something additional for their money, Roelofs said. "It would enable students to use all physical education building facilities free of charge."

He referred to new buildings on the Auburn Hills and Highland Lakes campuses and one near completion at Orchard Ridge. The president said student groups had been consulted and preferred the flat fee arrangement over having to pay fees each time they used the facilities.

But trustee Willing was unhappy about the fee. "I'm a night student. I work eight hours a day and go to school three hours at night. I'll never the physical buildings," she said.

Roelofs said "there is a small minority of students who use it. The only way you could make it equitable is to wipe it (the fee) out — and I don't think we want to do that."

TRUSTEES WERE unhappy about raising tuition, but Roelofs said the state aid formula virtually forces colleges to raise them. The formula, as applied, calls for OCC to get about 25 percent of its total revenue from tuition and fees.

Property taxes, one mill for operations, will raise 37 percent. The state appropriation will amount to 35 percent of the total — maybe.

"I'm optimistic on revenues from the state," Roelofs told the board.

"But we may be in for budget cutting from the state. They say welfare costs are going out of sight, and if there's an auto strike."

Highlights of the new nearly \$25 million budget:

- Auburn Hills will get nearly 24 percent of the total; Highland Lakes, 15.5; Orchard Ridge, nearly 35; the southeast system, about 15; and central administration, 11.

- Placement offices are budgeted and will be implemented at each campus.

- OCC will join the Michigan Community College Association and the Southeast Michigan League of Community Colleges regional placement service.

This is a significant policy change under Roelofs, in his first year in office. Under the late President Joseph Hill, OCC remained aloof from such organizations.

- Maintenance will be improved.

Artists gather at Somerset

Somerset Mall will host its ninth annual invitational art show May 3-6, with studio artists coming from eight states and Canada to participate.

The work of 37 artists has been chosen by a local jury for exhibit and sale at the mall. The artists will be in attendance throughout the exhibit.

Ceramics, sculpture, paintings,

prints and photography will be on display. Fiber art, metalworking and woodworking are also included.

Photographer Blake Simmons of Troy is among local artists to be featured.

The exhibit will be open to the public at no charge. Show hours are Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

New SEMTA board member sure to be against subway

By TIM RICHARD

Oak Park Mayor David Shepherd stunned an audience of Oakland County politicians last week when he withdrew from a race for a seat on the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority board.

The result: Representatives from 29 local governments weren't able to list their preferences for the regional transportation board. There are now three candidates for three nominations — and so, no contest.

On June 21, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) will choose between these three persons for the SEMTA post:

- Southfield Mayor Donald Fracassi, who takes credit for leading his city of 50,000 and a string of smaller neighbors back into the SEMCOG fold in the mid-1970s. He was nominated by Birmingham Commissioner Robert Kelly.

- Bloomfield Township Supervisor Homer Case, a former SEMCOG chairman and Oakland Republican "establishment" candidate. Case was nominated by West Bloomfield Supervisor John Doherty and supported by Shepherd, the retiring SEMCOG chairman.

- Royal Oak Commissioner Alice Schoenholz, a favorite of the more conservative suburbs. She was nominated by Huntington Woods Mayor John Olsen.

ALL THREE hinted at being less than enthusiastic about the rapid transit plan for the Woodward corridor approved April 3 by the SEMTA board — underground from downtown to Grand Boulevard, overhead to McNichols, at grade to the State Fairgrounds.

Case proved an advocate of "flexible" routing, saying a subway wasn't flexible.

Fracassi said in an interview his attitude "is different from what was passed by the 15-member (SEMTA) board. Mine is to get transportation to



DONALD F. FRACASSI
SEMTA hopeful

all the people before you add luxuries."

Fracassi said his city had conducted its own transportation study that could benefit SEMTA's efforts.

Mrs. Schoenholz campaigned as "a user. I ride the (Grand Trunk) commuter train. I've been to the Public Service Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission. That is why you've got trains today — I passed the peti-

tions 15 years ago."

She predicted "some rough situations" ahead politically for SEMTA. And she had studied the experiences and problems of the Bay Area Rapid Transit line in California, Washington's Metro and Atlanta.

THE FINAL choice will be made by the SEMCOG General Assembly in June. He or she will replace Joseph Bianco Jr. of Bloomfield Hills, who had served on the SEMTA board since it was formed in 1967.

Bianco, who had hedged about seeking a new three-year term, said he finally decided against it because of his increasing duties at the J.L. Hudson Co. Bianco had voted against the subway plans and for an at-grade plan for the Woodward corridor, as had Henry M. Hogan Jr.

R.J. Alexander, the third SEMTA board member from Oakland County, preferred the at-grade alternative, too, but voted for the subway-serial compromise in order to give it the 10th vote it needed and keep the planning process moving.

Thus, whoever SEMCOG picks in June from among the three nominees will probably be a subway opponent.

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