

# OCC chief eyes tax hike for '90 ballot

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

After months of hinting, Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson asked Oakland Community College trustees to consider asking voters for a property tax increase.

"I'd like to go to the community and say give us one more mill for 23 years," said the chief executive of the 24-year-old college.

"We have been preoccupied with costs. Value is the most important thing. People don't know we need it."

OCC LEVIES one mill for operations and 0.4 mill for debt retirement — a total of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

The 0.4 mill drops near the vanishing point after 1992, when bonds are retired. Under Nicholson's plan, if

voters say yes to one mill in 1990, the college would levy 0.6 until 1992 and the full amount afterwards.

"We would never go beyond the two mills. The college could operate without being jerked around in Lansing (state aid arguments) and without gouging the students," he said.

A house with a market value of \$100,000 is assessed at \$50,000. Currently, the college generates \$70 a year to the house. If the increase is voted, that would rise to \$100.

THE 0.6-mill increase would yield \$9 million-plus.

"I won't be here to spend it," said Nicholson. "The day you get it, you ought to kiss me goodbye and hire somebody smart enough to spend it."

Among \$58 million in needs over the next five years, he said, are \$17 million for buildings (new and re-



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pairs), \$25 million for equipment, \$6 million for information and telephone systems, \$6 million for libraries and lesser amounts for new programs.

FIVE TRUSTEES attended the three-hour special meeting last week, and for the first time there wasn't an immediate negative answer.

In general, trustees are watching what happens to a long list of other tax proposals — a legislative effort to shift school funding from property taxes to the sales tax, the governor's \$800 million environmental bond issue, an Aug. 2 Oakland County roads fee plan, the continued talk by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority of its own tax, and local proposals.

The board's senior members raised other questions.

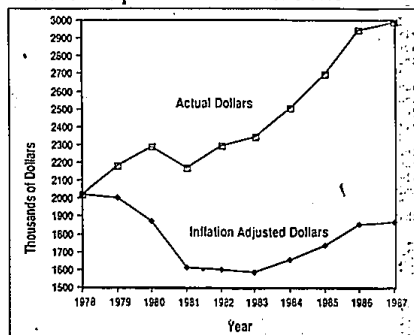
"Our fees are high," said chair Sandra Ritter of Waterford. Nicholson and vice president Richard Thompson replied they had launched a study that week of the fee structure.

"Once the millage is there, we should say tuition's gonna drop," said trustee David Hackett of Rochester Hills.

BUT NICHOLSON and vice chancellor Anthony Jarson replied that voters would need to be convinced that students were paying their full share before a tax increase could be approved.

"In Oregon," said Nicholson, who was a president there before coming to OCC in 1985, "people said 'the hell with the students, let them pay.'"

## OCC cost per full time student



Nicholson proposed a tuition hike from the \$29 level for in-district students for the fall semester in the \$5 range. A \$4 hike would amount to 14 percent; \$5, to 17 percent; \$6 to 20.6 percent.

The board acted on neither the tax nor tuition proposals. Any tuition increase would come when the 1988-89 budget is presented; the tax proposal would come after a year of staff preparation and a year of public education.

OCC's one mill operating tax is

one of the lowest voter-approved taxes in the region. Henry Ford (Dearborn) levies 2.11, Lansing 2.81, Macomb 1.0, Mott (Flint) 1.4, Schoolcraft 2.27 and Washtenaw 2.25. (Wayne County Community College has a legislatively mandated tax of 0.25 mill because voters always have rejected taxes.)

OCC's \$29 in-district tuition rate per credit hour is among the lowest. Henry Ford charges \$33, Lansing \$27, Mott \$34, Schoolcraft \$31, Washtenaw \$23 and Wayne \$30.

## OCC to train prison guards

Beginning June 20, Oakland Community College will offer the first classes in its newly created Corrections Institute Program on the Auburn Hills Campus, 2900 Featherstone east of the Pontiac Silverdome.

The 10-week program will end Aug. 29.

The program consists of five courses, each two weeks long, designed to prepare students to be corrections officers with the state.

According to Joel Allen, director of the Criminal Justice Center, "Such an accelerated curriculum will meet the current legislative needs and ultimately lead our students to a rewarding professional career in the field of corrections."

For the past year, Allen has worked on curriculum revisions at

OCC to make the program and institute possible.

Dr. William Rose, dean of career education at OCC, said the timing is excellent because a regional prison has been designated for Oakland County, and expansion of the county jail is due to be completed at the end of the year.

Kenneth J. Auld of the Michigan Department of Corrections' bureau of field services has been hired as a consultant to OCC's Corrections Institute.

In recent years, laws have been adopted saying specific courses in corrections must be successfully completed by prospective candidates for employment as correctional officers. In 1981 the Corrections Council began formulating a curriculum consisting of five mandated courses.

## County creates 40 jobs for new jail

The sheriff's department and prosecutor's office took up much of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' agenda last week. The board:

- Created 40 jobs in the sheriff's department as the first phase of staffing the jail addition now under construction. The jobs are for a lieutenant, five sergeants, 10 deputy lieutenants and 24 sheriff service agents.

- Created a new unit called visiting and recreation and shifted six persons from the existing jail to staff it.

The 1985 cost for all positions was set at \$1.5 million for salaries, fringes and other operating costs.

- Joined Sheriff John Nichols in requesting that the state Depart-

ment of corrections allow "double bunking" in the 200-bed jail addition.

- Accepted a federal grant of \$78,302 to hire an additional assistant prosecutor to handle auto theft cases. The grant was administered by the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority.

In other action, the board approved signing of a contract with Minoru Yamasaki Associates, Troy architects, to design a new computer center for the county west of Telegraph in Waterford Township. The price will be \$250,000. Yamasaki also has the contract to design a new courthouse addition and probably will be awarded the design of a law library.

## Business ethics must be taught

A national report on schools of business is correct when it says managers should worry as much about ethics as they do about the bottom line, according to Oakland University professor Harold Hotelling.

Hotelling is a faculty member in the School of Business Administration and a lawyer. He cited an April report on management education released at the meeting of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

The report, which attracted media attention, is critical of many schools' weakness in teaching about ethical issues and about the external environment, the political, legal and economic framework in which a company operates.

"Criticism suggests that many managers are capable in accounting, finance and internal management, but lack skills in handling or even understanding the legal regulations and restrictions they face," Hotelling said.

THE BUSINESS faculty agree with the report by Lyman W. Porter and Lawrence E. McKibbin. They say it gives ammunition to institutions like OU that emphasize developing tools of analysis in a business context.

"I believe that there are important questions of law, ethics and politics which cannot be clearly defined without some technical knowledge of business and economics and that without such knowledge, even a person of the highest character cannot reach the answers," Hotelling said. Hotelling does not subscribe to the theory of some schools that there is really nothing to teach and that any well-educated person of good char-

acter has already developed the necessary skills.

The OU professor draws on his background (a law degree and a doctorate in economics) to teach the legal environment courses in the School of Business Administration.

In addition, Frank Cardimen Jr., faculty member and director of the Center for Economic Development and Corporate Services, teaches a popular master's degree seminar on business ethics.

Cardimen said the course focuses on a broad range of problems in both the profit and non-profit sectors with guest speakers from those areas.

CARDIMEN DESIGNED the ethics course about three years ago. His goal was to introduce students to good as well as bad things that have happened in business.

He said he tries to "make the students sensitive to the many difficult decisions they will have to make and to think through their own moral values so that when they are faced with a dilemma, they have the strength to act properly."

Cardimen said his friends in business have said that you don't teach or stay at the top without good moral standards.

Ronald M. Horwitz, who is dean of the school of business administration, said the Cardimen seminar is an unusual and valuable course. Also, the subject of ethics is woven into all areas of the curriculum, he said.

"The OU approach," Hotelling said, "is that every graduate have training in ethics and in the legal and social environment of business, placing this coverage in precore and core courses taken by all students."

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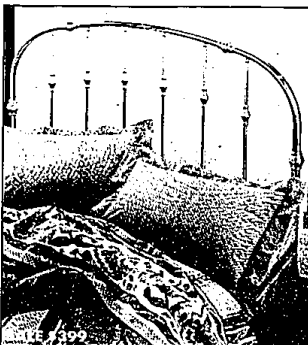
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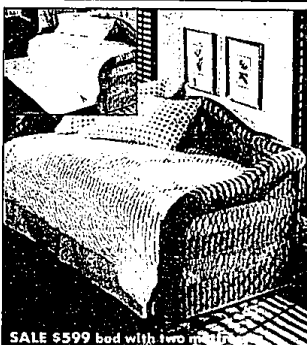
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