

# OCC board adopts pay hikes to keep college competitive

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Adjunct faculty will get hefty raises in the fall to make Oakland Community College competitive with neighboring two-year colleges.

"OCC is currently 15 percent below the average maximum pay rate for the community colleges listed in this survey," said an administrative memo presented to the board by Chancellor Richard Thompson. The survey covered master's degree level faculty.

Adjunct faculty received no pay increase for the 1996-7 academic year. A pay increase of \$35 per credit hour (taught) for the 1997-8 academic year and \$30 for the 1998-9 academic year and the 1999-2000 academic year would bring OCC to the current average maximum pay rate," the memo said.

That brings the base rate for Step A to \$385, Step B to \$435 and Step C to \$495 per credit hour, which is payable at the end of the semester, for the 1997-98 school year. The average adjunct instructor teaches two classes per year. Adjunct instructors may teach elsewhere or be employed in the business sphere.

Average full-time instructor teaches 12 credit hours in fall and winter semesters and 6 hours in spring or summer semester. Base wages range from about \$34,000 the first year to \$85,000 at the top of the scale.

Board members, however, balked at approving more than a one-year increase for adjunct instructors and said they would take up future years' rates in future years.

"I don't want to vote for a three-year increase," said trustee Anne V. Scott, a Royal Oak personnel company owner. "One year I'm comfortable with. There might be a new board next year."

"It looks like a 32 percent increase over all," said trustee Jeanne Towar, a publishing executive. "I'd like to have it brought back every year."

"I have a different reason for voting no," said trustee Sandra Ritter, a Waterford teacher. "I believe in faculty for faculty's sake (full-time faculty). I want our faculty to be teachers."

For the current year ending June 30, teaching faculty are paid \$350 to \$460 per credit hour.

Currently, Mott Community College in Flint pays tops of \$761 per credit hour. Schoolcraft in Livonia \$674, Wayne County in Detroit \$569 and Macomb

\$522.

The board approved hiking OCC's rates to \$385 to \$405 next year. Under the administration proposal, the rates would go to \$415 to \$525 in mid-1998 and to \$445 to \$555 by mid-1999.

Lesser raises were approved for such non-teaching faculty as counselors and librarians.

OCC in a year uses a pool of about 500 persons as adjunct faculty.

In other action, the board approved tutor hourly pay rates of \$8 for grade I and \$12.50 for grade IV for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Tutor I has no degree with a B or better average; tutor II, an associate's degree; tutor III, a bachelor's degree or five years experience; and tutor IV, a master's degree.

## How heavy?

Nutritionists use three-part formulas for determining whether a person is at a healthy weight, said student Mary Ann Perrault in an academic report to the board.

"Proper weight is not based on a cultural view," said Perrault. Instead, nutritionists use a combination of age, height and weight. Persons in the 10th (low) percentile or 90th (high) percentile are in trouble, she said.

"Weight doesn't tell all because it doesn't tell you lean and fat tissue," said Perrault, a student in the natural science department at the Auburn Hills Campus, where she studies with Dr. Martin E. Parent.

The mother of two, Perrault works part-time as a medical assistant for a physician in family practice. She is starting her second year at OCC and intends to apply for the physician's assistant graduate program at Wayne State University.

Board members asked for a continuance of reports from students in a variety of academic disciplines.

## New prez?

Board members decided to wait a couple of weeks before approving the hiring of Oswald Person as president of the Highland Lakes Campus, at Union Lake.

Parent current is an administrator in Houston and has been at Lansing Community College. His academic work is in history.

Although confirmation is expected, OCC board members want to meet Parent informally first.

Chancellor Thompson told the board Dorothy Buchan will retire June 30 as academic dean of the Auburn Hills Campus.

# Well inspections at core of dispute

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

The increasingly public feud between the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and County Executive L. Brooks Patterson over how to deal with well water contamination may be headed for court.

Before that happens, however, board chair John P. McCulloch, R-Royal Oak, wants another attempt at quiet negotiations — preferably less heated and public than other exchanges this week.

"I'm trying to contact the executive's office so we can talk about our differences and resolve the problem," McCulloch said Wednesday. "But we've been talking to Mr. Patterson about this for a long time, and something has to be done."

Patterson was unavailable Wednesday. But his press secretary said the executive's patience may be running too low for quiet negotiations.

"Normally the executive is willing to discuss mutual problems," said Robert Dustman. "But he's pretty upset right now, and I'm not sure how he'll react to Mr. McCulloch."

The issue that has Patterson and McCulloch upset is a well inspection program to combat contamination — arsenic and

nitrate — in well water, mainly in northern portions of the county where wells are common.

Commissioners last November adopted a policy requiring monitoring and maps indicating areas of high contamination in well water.

Patterson vetoed the resolution, insisting it was legally flawed. When the veto was overridden, the executive simply chose not to implement it, according to McCulloch, who added, "We want the resolution enforced."

The executive wants a more comprehensive system for inspecting new wells or those that have recently undergone extensive repairs, said Gerald D. Poisson, county corporation counsel.

"The executive wants a well permitting and inspection system that meets minimum requirements set by the state," Poisson said Wednesday.

The electric systems of a new (or refurbished) home are inspected, said Poisson. So are the plumbing and heating systems. "Why shouldn't wells be inspected?" he said.

Patterson tried to use his veto power again Monday. This time the executive said he was rejecting another board resolution

— this one calling for an ad hoc committee to review and discuss the policy with the executive.

Patterson's veto stated: "You've got to be kidding me." McCulloch, however, said the executive's veto was a meaningless gesture. "Under Public Act 139 (the legal framework for Oakland County government) the executive can't veto this kind of action."

McCulloch said the core of the problem between commissioners and the executive is the "alert" map. Commissioners want Oakland to measure contamination and to make the information available to prospective home buyers.

Livington and Genesee counties make such information available in their respective communities, McCulloch said.

McCulloch said the executive has said making such information available would adversely affect the real estate market.

"That's nonsense," McCulloch said. "Uncertainty about the contamination is a bigger threat."

McCulloch said commissioners and the executive are obviously split about the problem and how to handle it. "That's why we've should negotiate," he said, "and the sooner the better."

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