

SC budget stresses program, staff development

By SUE ROSIEK

After nearly two hours of budget review, Schoolcraft College Trustee Dr. Gerald Cox pushed back his chair and said: "9 million for 9,000 students strikes me as a reasonable figure."

That appeared to be the board's general feeling Wednesday, June 4, at the last review session before the budget is presented for formal consideration at a public hearing Wednesday, June 18.

The proposed budget, a \$93.000 increase of last year, emphasizes program and staff development rather than capital outlay expenditures, which have characterized the colleges' budgets in the past, according to Fred Petersen, manager of business services.

"It will enable us to continue programs and services, accommodate any anticipated growth and provide some improvement in programs and services."

NEW ITEMS in the proposed 1975-76 budget are:

- Five full time instructional positions, which will replace some present part-time positions.
- One librarian. The college has not added a librarian since 1969, and the enrollment has increased some 68 per cent, noted Grote.
- One counselor.
- One full time director of institution research, whose duties will include researching the availability of state and federal grants, and other special funding.
- Three clerical workers;
- Two technicians (reading assistant and a purchasing buyer);
- Two data processing workers (one computer operator and one computer programmer);
- One security officer.

Petersen pointed out that utility cost soared 27 per cent while other operating costs have also risen, and compose a sizeable chunk of the 1975-76 budget.

Also included in the proposed budget is \$20,000 to cover election costs.

"We believe we can fund the college for another year on the current voted

millage, but the administration informed the board last November that we would consider asking the voters for additional millage this year," explained Grote.

"Because it will be considered we think it's good sense to set aside money. There has been no firm commitment for additional millage but we are considering a request."

The Schoolcraft District, which includes the Livonia, Clarenceville, Garden City, Plymouth and Northville school districts, levies 1.77 in voted millage.

Other new budget expenses are a \$500,000 allocation which will establish staff and program development; and \$25,000 for parking lot and site improvement at the Garden City Instructional Center. The center, presently located in the former Florence Elementary School is scheduled to relocate in the Harrison School in the fall.

Also in the proposed budget are increases for legal and audit fees and institution memberships, and a reallocation of off-campus space for the climate systems technology program.

THE PROPOSED budget estimates \$2.7 million in state appropriations,

which Grote told trustees could change.

"It could be more or less, or on target. I am not optimistic that it will be more. It's very likely we will have a senate bill but no house bill. The proposed budget is calculated on information we have to date."

Petersen pointed out that the proposed budget has been constructed within the guidelines set by the board.

Personal services, which include salaries, wages and other employee related expenses, amount to 81.5 per cent of the \$9 million budget. The board had aimed for 85 per cent.

"Reducing personal services is the most significant thing we've done in the last few years," said Grote. "We're getting very concerned a few years ago because it was increasing. We were afraid there wouldn't be any money for discretionary funds."

"It's our goal to eventually hover around 80 per cent so the college will be able to meet its operating expenses and continue to grow."

Operating expenses account for 15.6 of the proposed budget and 3.1 per cent of \$200,000 has been earmarked for the college's contingency fund.

Petersen explained all budget categories were up because of inflation and rising costs, except capital outlay, which was down slightly. He said the 1974-75 capital outlay included a substantial amount for matching fund grants.

IN THE AREA of special funds, Kenneth Lindner, vice president for administrative affairs, said the board would have to prioritize its list of proposed projects.

"The board has budgeted for 12 out of 23 projects. Eight have had activity and 10 have no budget allocation. The board has agreed to add \$100,000 to the fund, but the list will have to be re-examined."

"No part of the budget has all the funds it needs or wants," added Grote.

Improvement, remodeling on climate systems building, and a fire alarm system.

"There are just certain things we'll have to defer," said Trustee Arch Valier. "The way I see it the asphalt and roof repairs and the fire alarms can't wait. We're not budgeting these improvements because of aesthetic appeal. The work has to be done."

"When you have this many projects to do around weather and students there's a limit to what you can do in a year," said Grote.

Lindner told the board the \$100,000 special maintenance and the \$100,000 special equipment fund requests were reasonable in light of other budget expenditures.


"No part of the budget has all the funds it needs or wants," added Grote.

Builders plan golf outing

The Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (BASM) will hold its annual golf outing June 13 at Bay Pointe Golf Club in Walled Lake.

A feature this year will be awarding of a 1975 Mercury Bobcat Qor a hole-in-one. The traditional stag affair begins with a continental breakfast and ends with dinner at 7:30 p.m. There will be games, prizes and gifts for all. Reservations may be made by calling BASM offices, 8th floor, One Northland Plaza, Southfield.

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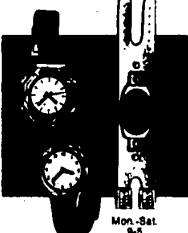
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