

Roelofs: No tuition hike, layoffs in OCC's stars this semester

By TIM RICHARD

No layoffs, and no tuition hike — at least for this semester.

That's the word at Oakland Community College, according to President Robert F. Roelofs, despite state-aid cuts of \$1.25 million from OCC's \$27 million budget.

"I'm reluctant to see tuition raised. If such a decision must be recommended, spring would be the soonest. The amount would possibly be \$1 per credit hour," Roelofs told trustees last week.

The word was cheered by Trustee David Hackett of Rochester. "In a time of inflation, maintaining tuition is the same as cutting it," he said.

THE BIG reason for OCC's good condition, Roelofs said, is a budget carryover from previous fiscal years.

An audit report showed the carryover — in effect, a surplus from previous years that provides working capital — added up to \$1.6 million as of last June 30.

Besides dipping into that carryover, OCC has refrained from filling some open jobs and cut back (but not eliminated) job-placement services.

The revenue picture has been helped by a recession-born enrollment increase, which has brought in more tuition money. The budget is now within \$50,000 of being in balance.

"What we've done is very non-disruptive," said Roelofs.

"FEW COMMUNITY colleges had a carryover," he added. "Most are in the process of making some pretty drastic cuts."

Among these cuts are reducing hours of physical-education instruction, discontinuing athletics, curtailing counseling, curtailing child-care-center hours, dropping free tuition for senior citizens and furloughing employees.

"Some are closing enrollments and sections of courses," Roelofs said. "We can congratulate ourselves we didn't have to do that, though we may be joining them in fall."

"Every college is going to raise tuition. I didn't propose a tuition increase though I simply said it would cover the gap."

OCC's rate is \$16.50 a credit hour for residents, \$26.50 for non-residents of the college district and \$36.50 for non-residents of the state of Michigan. In addition, it charges a registration fee of \$10 and a student-services fee of \$5.

TRUSTEE David Hackett of Rochester suggested promoting gift certificates for tuition as a means of bringing in more students.

But Dr. Betty Seitz, director of community relations and research, said the idea was tried three years ago at OCC and elsewhere and was found "not as successful at producing credit hours as it was in producing costs."

In other action, trustees approved raising student assistants' wages from \$3.10 to \$3.50 an hour, in compliance with the new federal minimum wage taking effect Jan. 1.

The increase will cost the college \$17,000, controller Anthony Jarson said, and may mean "we hire less students."

Doctor warns: 'Be still my heart' may be more than sweet refrain

"Winter sports are not only a lot of fun, they can contribute a great deal to a year-round program of physical conditioning," said Dr. George Ritter, Lathrup Village cardiologist who is president of the Michigan Heart Association.

"That is, they can if you go about it right. If not, you could be risking a heart attack. So keep the following in mind before beginning your winter activities."

First of all, don't throw yourself into any sport unless you're in condition and have your doctor's permission. Remember that cold weather itself can put an added strain on the heart. In an effort to preserve its heat, the body constricts the blood vessels, and your heart may be asked to do four times the work it has to do in mild weather.

Second, dress properly, he continued. Several light layers of warm clothing will keep you a lot warmer than one heavy layer, and you won't be carrying around all the extra weight besides. By all means wear a hat. As much as 85 percent of body heat may be lost through the top of the head, especially if you are bald.

Don't smoke outside in cold weather.

Of course, it's bad for your heart to smoke at any time, but since smoking also constricts the blood vessels, it's even worse in the cold.

Always take a buddy on activities like hiking or skiing. It's much safer in case something should happen, the doctor added.

Finally, know the warning signs of heart attack, and get help immediately should they occur. They are:

- An uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest, lasting two minutes or more.
- Pain may spread to shoulders, neck or arms.
- Severe pain, dizziness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath may also occur.

These symptoms may subside and then return, said Dr. Ritter. If you or someone you're with experiences these

signs, make the person stop activity immediately and lie down. Call EMS immediately or get the person to a hospital in the quickest way possible.

class reunions

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The class of 1975, first one to graduate from Plymouth Canton High School, will hold a reunion 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 27 at the Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. Reservation information is available from Lori McAllister Hutchinson, 455-8742.



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