

OCC '81-82 tuition to increase \$3 per credit hour

By Tim Richard
staff writer

With little discussion and no dissent, the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees has passed a \$30.4 million operating budget for 1981-82 which includes a \$3 per credit hour tuition increase.

The tuition increase takes effect with the fall semester. For the 90 percent of OCC's nearly 21,000 students who are residents of the district, the new rate will be \$19.50 a credit hour, an increase of 18 percent over the rate in effect the

last two years.

Non-residents of the district will pay \$29.50 a credit hour. Non-residents of Michigan will pay \$39.50.

"While nobody likes a \$3 increase," said President Robert P. Roelofs, "we have done a better job than our competitors" in holding tuition down.

Most nearby community colleges charge \$22 to \$25 for resident students. One charges only \$18.50, said Roelofs, but with 90 percent of the enrollment coming from outside that district, the average charge comes to around \$25.

THE BUDGET was drawn up with the expectation Proposal A on the May 19 ballot will be approved by voters. One feature of that proposed constitutional amendment would be to "cap" future property tax increases at 6 percent.

"OCC's 1981-82 budget anticipates the 6 percent limitation on existing property tax revenue and an 8.6 percent increase over this year's severely reduced state aid allocation," Roelofs told the board.

"Both of these numbers, you will observe, are quantumly below the 13.5 percent consumer price index escalation, which represents the inflation to

which we are subject," the president said.

Personnel costs were cut \$225,000, largely through attrition, and other cost savings of \$255,000 were effected for total savings of \$480,000, Roelofs said.

TEN NEW programs were given "seed money" for further development. "The programs are expected to be self-supporting in future years," said Roelofs.

The programs, by campus: Auburn Hills: fluid power, alternate energies, quality assurance, architectural engineering and industrial product design.

Highland Lakes: pre-engineering, aviation flight technology and publication technology.

Southeast system: Medical records technology and human services assisting — gerontology.

Roelofs said the budget reflects the two-year college's commitment to its objectives. One is, "Do not deviate from our determination to establish worthy new curricula, especially those career programs designed to teach employable skills to the unemployed."

Another: "Expand and improve the apprentice and employee training program, particularly with regard to student advising and articulation with industry."

DURING THE year, Roelofs said, the college needs to decide on whether to expand its nursing programs.

Trustee Suzanne Reynolds asked whether, in view of Michigan State University's decision to curtail nursing enrollment, OCC ought not to fill in the gap.

Roelofs said he was confident OCC could work out a "two-plus-two" arrangement with Oakland University whereby a nursing student would take two years of work at OCC and two at OU. This, he said, would work unless OU's enrollment becomes so heavy that it accepts only its own students in the junior-senior years of the program.

Dry weather lies ahead

What regional fluctuations in weather are on tap for the near future?

Next summer may see another drought in the Great Plains as severe as the 1980 summer's, and it could be even more destructive in the Corn Belt.

The West, too, may be drier than normal next summer, but the Ohio River Valley may have a wetter than usual spring.

The southern Plains should have good weather in June for harvesting the winter wheat but significantly lower rainfall in May — not good for fill-

ing out the grain.

These predictions come from the Climate/Food Project at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Reid Bryson, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies there and head of the project, says the predictions have a 65 percent chance of being accurate.

The Climate/Food Project prepares long-range forecasts to help predict famines around the world. It forecasted a year in advance the 1980 drought and the severe cold of this winter in the East.

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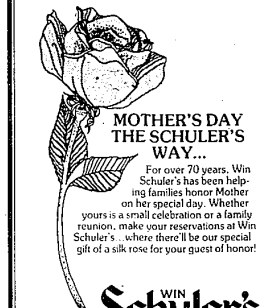


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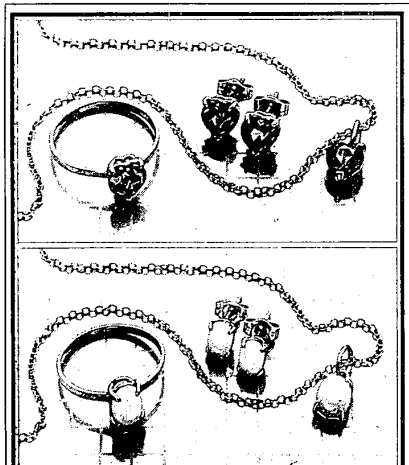
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