Budget Forum Draws Questions, Proposals

Forum clearly shows campus-wide togetherness amidst dire times.

Nearly 200 faculty and staff gathered together Wednesday, April 9, to listen and share their thoughts regarding Governor Davis’ proposed budget reductions.

Dr. Lewis began the session by introducing Rod Fleeman, vice-chancellor of finance and facilities for the District.

Fleeman outlined the specific aspects of the Governor’s proposed cuts to the audience, noting that while the community college system, as a whole, is facing a possible 10.4% net decrease in 2003/2004, the UC and CSU systems are looking at a possible 6% net rise.

Dr. Lewis retook the stage after Fleeman’s thorough overview and outlined how Cypress College is meeting this current year’s retroactive budget reductions, as well as how the college plans on meeting the numbers set out in the Governor’s proposed 2003/2004 budget reductions.

This preliminary plan for next year’s budget reduction is currently undergoing review by managers and by the Planning and Budget Committee. Within a few weeks a recommendation will be forwarded to the President’s Advisory Cabinet for approval.

As it stands, out of a $45 million annual budget, 80% goes to fund salary and benefits of permanent staff and faculty. An estimated $6 million, including $1.5 million for categorical programs, must be cut from the budget for next year.

So far, $4 million has been identified for possible cuts. The remaining $2 million in reductions has not yet been identified, pending further review, but Dr. Lewis warned that the money may have to come from the elimination of positions.

Following the formal presentation, a number of audience members asked questions. Dr. Lewis commented later on the professional tone that was set by people asking questions or making comments.

“I was very pleased with the number of people who stressed the importance of all members of the campus community working together to respond to this budget crisis,” said Dr. Lewis. “It’s obvious, once again, that Cypress College people care about each other and the students we serve.”

Another forum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, from 2-3 p.m. to further update the campus on the budget situation.

Highlights From the Budget Forum

1. As Char Felos so appropriately put it: “We are in this together.”
2. If you have ANY suggestions on how to save money — even just $1 — tell your manager or send an email to Dr. Lewis or another person involved with budget planning.
3. Yes, the District has reserve money set aside, but the problem we’re looking at is a multi-year problem, which won’t go away with just a one-time payment.
4. This budget crisis is bigger than the college, the District, or even the State!
5. Why are the numbers always different? Because the state budget is not yet finalized, the exact reductions will not be known for sure until the Governor settles with the Legislature, which might not happen until next fall.

@Cypress is published each week. If you would like to subscribe to the e-version, or have items included, please contact Marc Posner in the Public Information Office at ext. 47006 or mposner@CypressCollege.edu.

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The Theater/Dance Department of Cypress College is currently producing “The Laramie Project.” The play will be performed for the public May 1-3 and 8-10 at 8 p.m., in the Studio Theater.

“The Laramie Project” is a wonderful and insightful tonic for the times. It is a celebration of the heroic task of redefining oneself in the face of loss. It is also the harrowing tale of the brutal beating and death of a 21-year old gay student, Matthew Shepard, and the media aftermath.

Students are welcome to attend the performances and will receive a dollar discount with an ASB card. Faculty and staff will receive a two-for-one discount on tickets for the May 2, 3, 9 and 10 showings.

The Theater/Dance Department is open to hosting after-play discussions regarding the topics raised in the play with staff and students. There will be a free dress rehearsal May 7 at 8 p.m. at which students, with prior permission, could join in the discussion following the performance.

Selected cast members will also be available to give ten-minute presentations of segments of the play in the Studio Theater during the day, and there is also the possibility that the actors could perform these presentations in-class.

As there is a limited time frame when the performers will be ready and studio space available, contact Mark Majarian at ext. 47205 for further information.

Update from Admissions & Records
Two all-campus emails were sent out last week, detailing the revisions to the Spring 2003 Final Exam Schedule and the printing errors in the Summer 2003 Schedule Booklet. Please do your best to spread the word!

Cypress College Serves the Community

April is national and global service month, and in response to this call, the Service Learning Office will be taking donations of goods and coordinating opportunities to volunteer time during the workday at the Orange County Food Bank. (Classified staff may participate during their workday with prior approval of their manager.)

The most needed items are easy open “pop tops” food, canned fruits, canned meat, canned vegetables, dry foods, personal care items, peanut butter, snacks, and drinks.

Vans will be departing daily during the week of April 21-24 in three-hour shifts.

Please contact Kathryn Sonne in the Service Learning Office to make your reservation at ext. 47452 or via email at ksonne@cypresscollege.edu.

Last Chance for AS Scholarships Nominations

Nominations for scholarships provided by the Associated Students are being accepted through May 2.

The student leadership provides four scholarships – Outstanding Service to School and Community, Outstanding Student Leader, Service Above Self Award, and the Donald J. Bedard Leadership Award – for a total value of $1,300.

Students interested in the scholarships should complete an application and submit it to the Student Activities Office.

Student Photography Exhibition Opens

The 14th Annual Cypress College juried student photography exhibition opens Wednesday, April 23, at the Anaheim Museum.

There are two categories, Open and Commercial, in which the juror selects a first through fourth place, plus several honorable mentions for each category. The exhibition consists of approximately 80 images, selected from 300 to 400 entries made with traditional black & white and color processes, 19th Century processes, and digital technology.

This exhibition of award-winning student prints will be on display through May 24.

A reception and awards ceremony for the students will be held April 23 from 7-9 p.m.
Associated Students Designate $1,360 for Scholarships

This year, the Associated Students have designated $1360 in scholarship money to be awarded to deserving students at Cypress College's annual end-of-year Scholarship Reception.

This financial aid has been broken out into four separate scholarships which are outlined in detail below. Faculty and staff are welcome to nominate as many students as you would like for any of the awards.

All forms must be returned to the Student Activities Office by Friday, May 2, 2003.

Outstanding Service to School and Community - to be awarded to a student who is transferring to a four-year campus in the Fall 2003. The student also must have been active in campus or community affairs and has unselfishly given of their time to improve the quality of life within the area they volunteered.

Outstanding Student Leader – to be presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities while a student at Cypress College 2002-2003, leadership qualities most notable: communications and organizational skills, ability to work effectively with individuals or groups, and responsive to the needs, values and interest of others.

Service-Above Self Award – to be presented to one student who has given unselfishly of their own time in order to improve or add to the quality of life on campus.

Donald J. Bedard Leadership Award – Given in honor of Dr. Bedard, former Vice-President of Student Service at Cypress College. This scholarship will be presented to a student who attained top leadership at the college through an extracurricular effort. Not only does this student maintain a commendable G.P.A., but they have contributed to the excellence involved in campus government.

Please also note that all scholarship candidates, in addition to the categorical accomplishments, must also be a currently registered student at Cypress College, must have had community and/or campus involvement during the academic year, must have an overall G.P.A. of at least 2.0, must have paid the A.S. Activity Fee for the current semester, and must have enrolled and maintained at least 9 units during the 2003 Spring Semester.
Educational Excellence

Students and staff are proud of the many top-quality academic and vocational programs at Cypress College. Our students say Cypress College is a good place to build skills and connect with others. Many feel their confidence grow. Graduates say that after completing a program at Cypress College, they feel well prepared for their next step, whether that's a career or the university.

A Great Environment

Students often comment about the warm, personal and friendly experience at Cypress College. They say they feel safe at the college and enjoy the atmosphere. Students like that teachers remember their first names and say “hi” on campus. They also enjoy the casual environment, beautiful grounds and ample parking. And they rave about the relaxing duck pond.

Personal Attention

Cypress College classes are always taught by highly qualified faculty members. Students think their teachers are excellent and willing to go the extra mile for them. Faculty members like Cypress College because they love to teach. The result is personal attention and one-on-one interaction between students and their instructors. Many students say they came to Cypress College for that reason alone.

Value and Quality

Ask a Cypress College student if they're getting a good deal and you're likely to hear this response: “My friends are paying a fortune for the same education.” It's not only the exceptionally low cost of just $11 per unit, either. Students say they know they're getting a top-quality education and transfer credits, too.

A Fun Experience

You can't quite call Cypress College a party school. At least not in an official publication. But students say they find lots of opportunity for involvement. The campus has a vibrant arts community and several top-notch athletic programs. Not to mention all the attractions — like Downtown Disney and Knott’s Berry Farm — that are just a stone’s-throw from the campus.
Students who come to Cypress College go places. For nearly a half-million people — including actors, athletes, doctors, executives, mechanics, nurses and teachers — Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. For some, Cypress College is the ticket into their university of choice and for others it provides essential training for a rewarding career. Just one Cypress College class is often all it takes to provide cutting-edge skills that lead to a promotion or a new job. Cypress College, founded in 1966, provides a quality higher education to more than 16,000 students of diverse backgrounds each semester. More than 25% of Cypress College’s students are Latinos, 18% are Asian, 7% are Filipino, 5% are African American, 38% are Caucasian, and 7% are from other ethnicities or are unidentified. The college serves the Orange County cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, La Palma, Los Alamitos and Stanton, although residents of any city are welcome.

Cypress College is committed to promoting student success and contributing to intercultural understanding, in a student-centered learning environment. Offering 58 university-transfer majors, 107 career-certificate programs, and degrees in 46 areas of study, Cypress College has traditional semesters beginning in January and August, while short-term courses start throughout the year. A Cypress College education costs just $11 per unit, California's lowest tuition. Financial aid and scholarships also are available to qualifying students.

Cypress College, in sunny Southern California, is in the shadow of major tourist attractions such as Disney’s theme parks and Downtown Disney (about six miles), Knott’s Berry Farm (less than five miles), and The Block entertainment complex (about 10 miles). The campus is 12 miles from the beach and provides quick access to Long Beach and Los Angeles. Located at 9200 Valley View Street in Cypress, the college is easily accessible from several Southern California freeways, including the 5, 91, 605, 22 and 405.

The 110-acre Cypress College campus features a lake, park-like study areas and beautiful weather year-round.