



# Many students fail to repay emergency loans

By MIGUEL CERDA  
Staff writer

Ten thousand dollars of the Financial Aid's student loan funds were given out to Ohlone students last year during the spring semester and only \$6,000 were paid back.

Due to the \$4,000 debt, Financial Aid will only be able to provide \$6,000 for student loans this year. If the problem with students not paying their loans persists, the student loan program will not continue due to the fact that those funds are self-replenishing.

Joanne Schultz, the dean of business services, said that they are going to crack down on those who left their debts hanging. Letters will be sent to everyone who failed to pay their loan back last year.

If students still fail to pay their debt after the letter is sent then a collection agency will eventually show up at their doorstep. Not only will students have to pay their debt but they'll also have to pay a late fee.

"If they've moved without notifying us then the letter may

never get to them, but the collection agency will," she said.

She also said that student loans are an offline process and does not show up on a student's balance, so some students might be surprised when receiving their letter.

According to the dean, a problem this big with students not paying their loans back has never happened in the past. It's usually only a couple hundred dollars that aren't paid back in time.

Student loans are available at any time of the year, and students who are approved may use the money in any way as long as it's an emergency. The loans are short term, meaning that students only have 60 days or until the semester is over to pay it back, whichever comes first.

There are general qualifications for students to receive a loan, which include being enrolled in at least six units and having a 2.0 GPA or higher if recipient is a returning student.

Up to \$300 can be borrowed by a student in one semester.

Students who are unemployed need to provide a co-signer who is 21 or older.

# Layoffs, pay cuts loom over Ohlone

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ing in some buildings," Calegari explained. "But those measures wouldn't provide significant savings."

Long-time employees of the college were offered retirement incentives in August, and if enough accept the incentives and declare their intention to retire by the Sept. 30 deadline, then the college would save money, which will help reduce the Ohlone deficit.

Calegari explained that the original state budget gave Ohlone \$46.5 million for the fiscal year, however the July revision cut Ohlone down to \$45.7 million. Ohlone was left with a \$2.2 million deficit. After cutting \$500,000 from "categorical" programs and taking \$1 million from reserves, the school was left with the \$700,000 deficit.

Ohlone anticipates \$660,000 in savings from the retirement incentives. However the actions were not enough to avoid a reduction in the payroll.

Calegari also said the budget cutbacks will possibly be worse in the next fiscal year.

Ohlone cut a large number of classes from the summer schedule, then cut more than 170 sections from the fall schedule. One result is that many classes are overflowing with students. Many students have not been able to get the classes they wanted. A modified hiring freeze has been in effect for more than a year.



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## Journalism class visit



Staff photo

**Ohlone College Monitor Editor-in-Chief Jeff Weisinger talks to a journalism class at Tennyson High School in Hayward on Tuesday. Tennyson teacher Alister Bomphry invited members of the Monitor staff to speak to his class. The current Monitor news editor, Gloria Franco, is a 2009 graduate of Tennyson, where she served on the staff of the Tennyson First Glance.**

# Ohlone making plans to combat Swine Flu

By KATHRYN DIXON  
Staff writer

According to Sally Bratton, director of the Ohlone Student Health Center, so far no cases of the novel or new H1N1 flu, known as the "Swine Flu," have been reported to the center by any of the college's 13,000 students.

On Sept. 28 vaccinations for the regularly expected seasonal flu will be available on campus at the Center (\$10 fee for students, \$20 fee for faculty). Bratton advised students to receive this vaccination. However, she said it will not protect against H1N1.

Another vaccination will be required for that protection and is also advisable. It will not be

released until Oct. 15, when the United States will freely distribute 45 million doses.

This amount will not cover the entire U.S. population, as the virus begins spreading. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius said the United States has ordered 195 million doses of vaccine and the free distribution is expected to eventually cover everyone in the country.

People are already becoming ill with the swine flu virus. As of Sept. 15, 2009, the Alameda Public Health Department reported 137 cases of swine flu in the county requiring hospitalization, including 14 fatalities and 51 ICU hospitalizations.

Bratton said all new flu cases at

Ohlone would be presumed to be H1N1 until proven otherwise.

If a student becomes ill with a fever over 100 degrees, a cough and sore throat, he or she should telephone the center and report it. Students are not encouraged to report the illness in person at the center.

Bratton said students are expected to self-quarantine, stay at home away from other persons, and return to school more than after 24 hours after the illness has completed its course.

The center will not provide medications for the flu such as Tami Flu and Relenza. Students are encouraged to seek treatment for the flu from their personal physicians.

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