



# Practical solutions to a \$2.5 million deficit proposed

*Continued from Page 1*

that will be paid by the "rainy day fund," which will then decline to \$700,000.

In the 2010-'11 budget, Ohlone will have to add back \$200,000 in salaries paid for by Title III, which has lapsed, pay less than \$130,000 for partial salaries of three employees who were paid with bond money.

The employment of some of these may be temporary. The bond is near depletion.

Calegari said he expects an increase in the PERS retirement contribution rate of one percent of the classified payroll. There will be an increase in medical premiums costs. Furlough savings must be added back.

There is a decline in interest regarding Ohlone's cash reserves. It is necessary to backfill about \$1 million because the state cut the grant to the Deaf Services Program.

Cuts in categorical programs are projected to remain at 15 percent although the state has cut them 32 percent or 62 percent, thus Ohlone must backfill the difference.

Ohlone anticipates a 2 percent deficit caused by the state's decreased level of funding community colleges.

It anticipates a 0.38 percent negative cost of living allowance. It's projected that there will be hardly any federal stimulus funds to replace the \$150,000 in these funds received last year.

To fill the \$2.5 million budget gap for 2010-'11, Calegari laid out a series of options on a chart.

He stated that employees other than faculty must be given 45 days notice according to their contract and May 15 would be the final day to do so before the spring term ends. So far, there has been no decision to give other layoff notices.

The options Calegari presented to solve the budget crisis included: freezing step and column wage increases for CSEA, SEIU, UFO,

and administrative employees, which would result in saving a total of \$324,444.

A one percent wage decrease for these same employees would save \$356,880. A one-day furlough for these same employees would save \$59,116. A one-week furlough for these same employees would save \$295,805. Calegari also listed on this chart savings regarding the medical, dental, vision, and life insurance plans of the CSEA and SEIU employees.

This chart did not include the fact that faculty and administrative employees elected years ago to receive cash payment of about \$8,900 yearly in lieu of having their medical, dental, vision and life insurance deducted from their wages as do CSEA and SEIU employees.

Shairon Zingsheim, Associate VP, Human Resources, presented a chart at the forum showing positions now vacated.

She is attempting to put back a few positions, which were vacated, by advertising the positions. Zingsheim noted that the positions would be modified to save money.

According to Calegari, 12 members of faculty took the SERP package and retired. The SERP offer last year was very successful, resulting in savings over \$1 million.

Calegari is working on a Voluntary Severance Package to provide one-time compensation for those who volunteer to quit. The date of severance would be this June and it would probably be offered to all employees, except possible those in indispensable positions. The plan is in the formulation stage.

Calegari also addressed increasing revenues in 2010-'11 at the forum. He said the international student program is expanding, which creates new revenues. And that community contract education, and renting facilities such as the pool and the Smith Center will increase revenues.



Photo by Amy Kent

**"We are becoming a small college not by our own choice," said President Gari Browning. "Enrollment and head count are down. The state is targeting the most fragile student population: categorical programs."**

There is a potential to develop Ohlone's 37 acres of surplus property, a project which he intends to get back on track.

An active senior living facility backed by government funding is one proposal.

David Wood, an instructional assistant at the English Language Center in Hyman Hall complained that he and his colleague were visited by Zingsheim and their CSEA union representative and quizzed about working only 10 months

instead of 12, which he said is an illegal negotiation under their bargaining agreement.

Zingsheim disagreed with his view of the situation, stating that she was just trying to get to know these employees and discuss the impact of the summer cut backs at the Fremont campus.

Several CSEA employees in the biotech department experienced a similar scenario in which the option of working fewer months was discussed with them by Zingsheim.

She again disagreed with their viewpoint stating she was trying to get to know them and understand their situation.

Browning intends to hold more budget forums and other meetings to insure transparency of the budget process. She said she wants to refrain from cutting additional classes in the future.

According to Calegari, the next budget forum will most likely occur after the governor revises the state budget in May.

## Response to Budget Forum

**President Gari Browning wrote the following as a response to the reaction from week's Budget Forum.**

The purpose of Monday's forum was to share what budget information we have to date and to begin a dialogue focused on solutions and ideas for our future budget challenges.

After reflecting on the forum, it is obvious to me that the Ohlone College community is passionate about keeping the college operating at a high level of excellence to ensure student success and passionate about avoiding layoffs.

One of my principles in dealing with this budget situation is and has been to avoid layoffs, and I am committed to ongoing dialogue and negotiations to fill the gap without layoffs.

Recognizing our budget deficit is primarily payroll driven and must be resolved by payroll reductions, I have created a proposal as a starting point for working together to meet the 2010-2011 projected budget shortfall without layoffs.

Assuming a \$2.6 million shortfall (which remember may very

well change), we could close it by offering an incentive for voluntary severance (in lieu of a SERP) which would need to net \$350,000 to \$500,000 in salary savings; a reduction in hourly counselors for \$320,000 in savings; use of \$500,000 of the rainy day reserve; and furloughs (from flex days for faculty) at 4 percent of the total college salaries for \$1,400,000 in savings.

Because there are so many unknowns at this time, my initial proposal does not preclude the need to issue March 15 notices to a maximum of 5 counselors or the possibility of reducing staff and administrators that are not required to be noticed now. However, if we are able to make these adjustments or a combination that yields a similar total, we should be able to avoid or reduce layoffs. This proposal would give us flexibility needed to meet the changing budget situation.

As I am sure you understand, it is my responsibility to ensure the fiscal soundness of the District. There are two potential threats to that. One is that although we all want to work something out to

avoid layoffs, any solution requires negotiation which can become complicated. The second is that we are at the mercy of the state budget and things could happen there to make our situation so bad that layoffs are unavoidable.

I recognize these are very challenging times for all of us and that looking forward I will need to make some difficult decisions to ensure the college remains fiscally sound. I appreciate the viewpoints you shared on Monday and expect you to continue to voice your opinions.

As we move through the rest of the semester, I'll be meeting regularly with the College Leaders and the College Council. We will have more forums as we get new information, and I will continue to post updates to our budget webpage. Some of you have been emailing me your ideas; please keep that up. Also understand that we need to respect the negotiating process and the process our Board of Trustees must follow.

Thank you all for the efforts you have put forth to maintain the quality of education at Ohlone and the services we offer to our students.

## Senator resigns

By **EAN TAJERON**  
Staff writer

Senator Jason Trinidad resigned his position of ASOC Parliamentarian on Tuesday.

Trinidad said, "I've enjoyed serving our student body, but I have many more responsibilities on my plate right now, and I won't be able to continue upholding this position to the best of my abilities."

The duties of the Parliamentarian include: interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws; oversee the Parliamentary procedures, the Brown Act which pertains to rights of public knowledge, Title 5, which regulates construction of school facilities, and the Education Code; and making sure that the council complies with all the above.

Trinidad has some words of wisdom for interested candidates.

Trinidad said, "Since you'll have more to oversee and be responsible for, it is critical that you know your stuff, because everyone will be looking at the Parliamentarian during a situation."

By the end of the next ASOC meeting, President Kevin Feli-

ciano will have appointed a new Parliamentarian from one of our 57 senators.

Currently, Ohlone has the largest student senate of all community colleges in California.

Also, the March on March 4 will take place in San Francisco. This is another march apart from the one on March 22.

There will not be any free transportation for this march. The rally will take place at City Hall, which is near the Civic Center BART Station, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Since there are people who will not be able to attend the march on March 22, March 4 provides more opportunities for people to show support to fight the budget cuts.

ASOC Legislative Representative Andie Morhous explained, "March 4 is the day of local action, so the major cities of California will be having their own local rallies."

The purpose of both marches is to bring people together in order to voice their opposition the budget cuts.

This demonstrates that the needs of Ohlone students are a top priority to the ASOC that was elected to serve our priorities.