

# Community colleges get budget boost

## ■ Education: In revised proposal, Davis backs \$62 million wage increase for part-time instructors

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In his revised budget released Monday, Gov. Gray Davis upheld additional spending on the state's community colleges, including \$62 million to increase wages for part-time instructors to bring their salaries closer to those of full-time

staff. Supporters say the measure could improve education.

If approved by two-thirds of both the state Senate and the Assembly, the expenditure would help ease a historic disparity in pay also common at public and private universities nationwide.

"This is a historical problem, and it would be very hard to correct without specific allocations or without taking money from full-time workers," Peter MacDougall, president of Santa Barbara City College, said last week. "This will allow us to recruit those highly qualified professors. It will help us get closer to parity."

Full-time instructors put in about 1,050 hours per year. For the 1999 school year, full-time instructors at City College earned an average of \$56,103, about \$53.43 per hour. The annual salary at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria was \$56,614, about \$53.92 per hour.

In that same year, part-time, temporary teachers received \$36.94 per hour at City College and \$31.46 at Hancock.

Educators had feared California's energy crisis, along with the state's economic slowdown would reverse plans to increase pay. But Davis offered an additional \$49 million to help cover increased energy costs for the community colleges and to implement conservation measures.

The extra money allows the community colleges to address teachers' pay.

"I was surprised he didn't cut it because it was new, and I worried he would take out all the new

things," said Ann Foxworthy, president of Allan Hancock College. "We're very dependent on large numbers of part-time faculty, and I think it's appropriate."

State officials are still considering how they would distribute the part-time funds among the state's 107 community colleges. The money would be in addition to annual raises.

To improve instruction by part-time teachers, Davis also retained an additional \$47 million in spending on office hours for part-time faculty at community colleges, a proposal in his January budget. Traditionally, full-time instructors are paid for working with students outside the classroom; part-timers are not.

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Faculty Association of the  
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The voluntary office-hours program involves 19 community colleges, including City College, that have agreed to pay matching funds. If approved, the additional money would make the program available to additional campuses. Hancock College has tentative plans to participate next year.

Davis did cut spending for community colleges in some areas, including library materials and scheduled repairs. He also made a less-than-1-percent cut in the overall cost-of-living salary increase. But given the additional money in other areas, the overall spending on community colleges was increased by \$37 million over January's budget, according to the state Department of Finance.

State community college officials say the increase is more like \$22.4 million.

"Overall we applaud the governor for his efforts in the wake of the economic slowdown," said Jonathan Lightman, executive director of the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges, an independent group that proposes legislation and otherwise advocates for men and women who teach.

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