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Cabrillo makes hard spending decisions

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Cabrillo College governing board last night approved the school's \$30 million "austere" budget.

Cabrillo President John Hurd said this year's budget contains 12 vacant positions. Six of these are teaching or academic positions. Another 14 are under consideration, he said.

Next year will be even tougher, Hurd said. Cabrillo anticipates expenditures to surpass revenue by \$1.1 million, he said. Hurd has proposed eliminating 22 full-time positions next year.

"We're in for tough times," Hurd said.

Cabrillo's budget for 1993-94 is \$29.8 million. Expenditures, however, are expected to reach \$30.6 million. This year's budget does contain a reserve of approximately \$500,000 that will be used for unallocated expenditures.

Several board members referred to this year's budget as "austere."

"We are starting a trend of aus-

tere budgets," said Trustee David Weiss.

Trustee George Couch noted that 87 percent of Cabrillo's budget is for employee salaries and benefits. He said "rough decisions" would have to be made in that area for next year's budget.

Trustee Nancy Matlock said the public's perception of public education is that it is fraught with bureaucracy and waste.

"People are buying the argument that there is too much money in public education," Matlock said. "That's terrifying to me."

The public's sentiment, she said, is to take more money away from public education rather than increase its funding. She was alluding to the voucher initiative on the November ballot.

The voucher program would give parents \$2,600 a year per student. This money could be used to pay for private schooling. The money would come from funds designated for public education.