

Cabrillo cuts \$1 million from budget

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APTOS — Cabrillo College leaders slashed nearly \$1 million in programs and services Monday while saying that it might not be enough.

"This is a start, unfortunately, to a string of cuts for the next several years," said Trustee Dave Weiss.

Believing that the cuts put an end to the budget turmoil is "whistling in the dark," he said.

The \$909,000 in reductions to next year's budget include eliminating the electronics technology program and wiping out eight vacant teaching positions.

"Please understand we have agonized over them," Weiss said before joining others on the Governing Board in ap-

proving the service cuts.

The reductions hit a variety of areas of campus life.

They range from \$20,000 out of the athletic program to \$30,000 from funds to repair earthquake damages.

President John Hurd has said the common thread is that all of the cuts are "painful."

The electronics technology program has suffered from declining enrollment in recent years. About 120 students are in the program compared to 290 a few years ago.

Only about five students have been graduating from the program each year, Hurd said.

By killing electronics technology, the college will save an estimated \$231,000 from its \$30 million budget next year.

Hurd blames the cuts on state funding failing to keep pace with the escalating costs of doing business.

The college expects no increases in its budget next year.

At Monday's meeting, Hurd said the financial picture may be even worse than anticipated this year.

The college was expecting roughly \$9 million in property tax revenues, but that amount may be \$700,000 less as a result of a statewide decline in local property taxes, said Pegi Ard, vice president for business.

The taxes are distributed to the colleges on a statewide average, she said.

The Northridge earthquake and the economy are among the possible reasons that property taxes will be less than in expected in California, Ard said.