

Cabrillo officials keeping eye on enrollment

By ADRIANA REYNERI

Administrators are closely watching spring-semester registration, now under way at Cabrillo College.

If enrollment for the semester falls below that for spring 1984, the college will lose state funds based on attendance.

Registration began yesterday and will continue from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday.

Classes will begin the week of Jan. 21.

Enrollment for fall semester, down about 6 percent from fall 1983, caused the college to lose approximately \$400,000, it was reported last fall.

Some administrators speculated that a new \$50 fee charged full-time students, and a \$5-a-unit fee charged students taking fewer than six units, may have put a crimp in fall enrollment.

Several state programs, however, allow students receiving financial aid or public assistance, and part-time low-income students, to waive the fee.

Workers in Cabrillo's financial aid office last semester publicized the waiver programs in hopes more students would take advantage of them, Manuel Osorio, director of student services, told the Cabrillo College Governing Board at a meeting Monday.

Enrollment, however, forms only part of of Cabrillo's financial profile.

Other factors, also discussed Monday, will affect the college's budget: state allocations, the new state lottery and pending labor negotiations between Cabrillo faculty and administration.

Gov. Deukmejian's budget, to be announced Thursday, will greatly affect Cabrillo's financial outlook, John Petersen, president, told the board.

"We're hoping that this year will be the year of the community college," Petersen said.

Last year, the state gave large increases to state universities and four-year colleges, but not to community colleges, Petersen said.

In his State of the State address last night, Deukmejian asked for a 10 percent increase overall for public education, but only 8.6 percent for community colleges. Proceeds from the new state lottery will augment the state allocations.

No one is sure how the lottery, delayed by a lengthy appointment process, will affect community colleges, Cliff Nichols, vice president for

business services, told the board.

According to state projections, Cabrillo may receive \$750,000 if the lottery runs full-tilt for one year. The projections assume each Californian will spend \$50 a year on the lottery, Nichols said.

In another matter, members of the newly formed Cabrillo College Faculty Assn. told the board they hope to begin contract negotiations in March.

The move toward collective bargaining began with concerns about layoffs, increased teaching loads and continuing low salaries, which fall in the bottom 10 percent for California community colleges.

In the past, the teachers had received raises based on a formula devised in the 1960s to bring the salaries up to the

state average, but for the past two years the teachers didn't get the raises stipulated in the formula. Administrators said the college couldn't afford to give the teachers more.

Several long-term trends will also affect Cabrillo's future, Petersen said. These include a more centralized community college administration, increased state funds for maintenance and equipment, increased attention to high academic standards, a leveling off of college enrollment, increased attention to assessing, placing and counseling students, a wave of teacher retirements over the next three to five years, and subsequent hirings.

"It's important to pay attention to how we restructure our staff," Peterson said.