

Poll Story- Budget Cuts

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An informal poll conducted by the Online Journalism class Wednesday afternoon on the main South Puget Sound Community College campus revealed that 59 percent of students believe the recent budget cuts affect themselves and other students on campus.

“I’m dying to pay my tuition. It’s like \$250 dollars per credit. Three times as high as ordinary tuition,” said one international student who wishes to remain anonymous. Budget cuts aren’t new business to her. She describes herself as a victim of previous budget cuts: “The one class required for me to graduate- international relations -isn’t offered anymore. I don’t know when they cut it.”

This quarter is no exception either. She had to readjust her schedule twice: both of the classes she had been looking to take originally were not offered this quarter due to the cuts, leaving her to replace them with her second choice in classes. “They cut really interesting classes,” she said.

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It's a sentiment echoed by others. "I'm concerned there may not be as many services and educational opportunities for students," said Luke, a second quarter SPSCC student. Though he hasn't been directly impacted by the budget cuts himself, he is aware of the potential for what they could do, having seen the effects of budget cuts on other state institutions.

But there remains a division in student consensus as well. Approximately 38 percent of students polled replied that they had no concerns regarding the budget cuts. Yan, a fourth quarter international student at SPSCC, is among the unconcerned.

"I wasn't aware of the budget cuts," he replied when first asked. According to Yan, international students have the opportunity to register a month earlier, and his tuition is paid for by his parents. He doesn't believe he has been affected.

Despite this, the effects of the budget cuts remain pervasive. When asked if any of his friends have had difficulties with classes, he paused to think and began to recall a few details. "Actually, I heard some students are taking English classes in the gym instead of building 24," he said.