

Finance Committee Meeting

May 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

President's Conference Room

Present: Dr. Richard Dawe, Ryan Howard, Pam Setzer, Gayle Cooper, Tina Wheelis and Kelly Cowan

Ryan Howard called the meeting to order.

Gayle Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2022 finance committee meeting. Pam Setzer seconded the motion.

LPN and RN Assessment Fee Structure

The College is currently charging \$190 per semester for the LPN Assessment Fee and \$240 per semester for the RN Assessment Fee. This fee covers the cost of the ATI testing that is used to assess skills during the semester and required testing for the students to advance from semester to semester. In addition to the assessment fees, students must purchase the accompanying textbook and pay for virtual lab simulations needed for their skills assessments.

ATI has not had a price increase for the last 6 years, but will be doing so for the upcoming academic year. In addition, they are offering a new product that would incorporate virtual clinicals and eliminate the need for the required textbook. This bundle is less expensive than what the current assessment fee, textbook, and virtual clinicals is currently costing our nursing students.

The new assessment fees will be \$600 for LPN students per semester and \$667 for RN students per semester.

Health Insurance Premium Increases

Employee health insurance is one of the premier benefits offered to all Ozarka College employees. Currently 88% of all employees participate in the health benefit by enrolling in either single or family coverage.

The health insurance premiums have not increased since 2017. Due to rising costs of medical care and expected increased utilization caused by legislative mandates with regard to certain testing and other changes, premium increases will be necessary to keep our self-insured plan adequately funded.

Beginning January 2024, the premiums for single coverage will increase \$15 per month and family coverage will increase \$40 per month.

Absorbing this increase will help with the retention of current employees and ensure that Ozarka College's benefit package is competitive or superior to other employers in the area.

COLA

Tina explained that due to the rising cost of inflation that the country is experiencing and to help retain staff, a two percent (2%) cost of living for all eligible employees was included in the proposed operating budget for the fiscal year 2024.

FY24 Operating Budget and Operating Reserve

Tina presented the operating budget for FY24 for the finance committee's review. She explained that the operating reserve was required to be funded at 6% of the annual budget. For FY24 this would require \$14,345. This would increase the operating reserve balance to \$535,740.

She also provided in detail departmental budget request adjustments, proposed revenues, expenditures listed by category, and a detailed salary and benefits summary for all employees.

Discussion

Tina addressed some specific budget related questions from Gayle and Ryan. Gayle and Pam commended her on her hard work on the budget packet presented. There was no further discussion and Pam made a motion to approve the budget as presented and recommend it to the full board at the May meeting. Gayle seconded the motion. Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gayle seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.