IVC board votes to close Calexico campus; classes remain in the city

By ELIZABETH VARIN

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The lease for IVC's facility on North Imperial Avenue in Calexico is set to expire in June and continuing the lease would cost about $170,000, said Efrain Silva, dean of economic and work force development, who also oversees the Calexico campus. The total operational cost for the facility — including the lease, salaries, utilities and more — is $1.8 million.

More costs would come because the building is aging and maintenance has not been kept up as well as it could have been, he said. It's also overcrowded with inadequate parking.

In response to the IVC district's projected $3.6 million deficit for the next year and the need to cut, the school's board of trustees voted 7-0 to close the Calexico center.

But the school is minimizing the impact to students through partnering with other schools, Silva said.

San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus will house classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., he said. It will also be a better environment, more like a four-year university, for the students.

For nighttime classes, agreements are being worked out with the Calexico Unified School District, which already hosts some of IVC's night classes, Silva said.

While the situation mitigates impacts to the students, it's not a final solution, Silva said.

"We really need to think about what we're going to do about Calexico in the long run," he said. "There's a
Parents of dead Mexicali student plead for justice

Economic analysis says El Centro has some of the nation’s lowest incomes

Shifting the services gives the college a chance to deal with some of the budget issues, while strengthening services in Calexico, he said.

“We think it’s a win-win,” Silva said.

It was good news to hear that though the center won’t be there, the classes are still going to happen, said Calexico-area county Supervisor John Renison. It’s all about access for the Calexico students.

Calexico City Councilman Daniel Romero offered his support as well.

“It’s not really important where the studies are held, just as long as they’re in Calexico,” he said.

The board didn’t comment as it voted to sever its lease agreement for its facility and move forward with the partnership with SDSU and Calexico Unified.

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Poll
Investor Warren Buffet stated in a New York Times opinion piece that households making more than $1 million should pay more taxes. What do you think?
- Completely agree
- Completely disagree
- We all should pay more taxes
- We all should pay less taxes

Comment
Hybrid at 7:09 AM May 19, 2011
The article didn’t address how many IVC employees would lose their jobs as a result of this closure. I would think that would be a pertinent question.