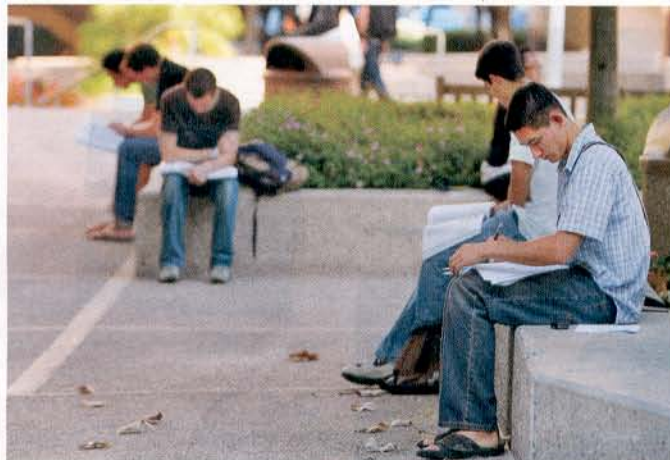


EDUCATION

Virtual Swim Meets?

 Keen to cut costs, colleges are finding creative ways to save cash. So long, free laundry

A FUNKY ROOMMATE NAMED RECESSION IS SETTLING IN on campuses this fall as colleges and universities slash budgets for virtually everything from salad bars to ski teams. U.S. colleges and universities suffered, on average, a 23% endowment drop in the second half of last year, according to a study by a group of campus business officers. That reduction in funding has set off a scramble to freeze hiring, cut hours and hunker down until the economy improves. "Institutions will have to manage with less," says Oberlin's vice president for finance, Ron Watts. Here's a look at how schools are getting creative with their wallets. —BY SOPHIA YAN

Maintenance

DICKINSON COLLEGE

Is saving \$150,000 a year by dumping its free laundry service

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Will curtail trash removal and window-washing to save \$122,000

SUNY-CANTON

Is holding on to \$25,000 by mowing lawns less frequently

PITZER COLLEGE

Will keep \$80,000 by power-washing sidewalks and windows once, instead of twice, annually



Academics

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Cut 48 undergraduate and graduate programs, from art history to archaeology

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Lost its political-science major

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Will phase out its bachelor's in health sciences

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

Cut some unpopular courses in German, Russian, Arabic and Chinese

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Told faculty and staff to take as many as eight days of unpaid leave

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Instituted a hiring freeze

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Let go of 49 staffers from its graduate school of business



Dining

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Got rid of weekday hot breakfasts at undergrad dorms, saving \$900,000

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Cut \$10,000 in costs by using tap water at events

CARLETON COLLEGE

Will save \$3,800 by skipping shrimp and wine at annual faculty parties

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Reduced food waste by 40% when it ditched its cafeteria trays earlier this year

COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

Closed a dining hall



Communications

WHITTIER COLLEGE

Eliminated one day of freshman orientation, saving \$50,000

WHITMAN COLLEGE

Sliced \$20 from each student's free-printing allotment

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Disconnected landlines in the communications department to save \$1,100 a month

CORNELL COLLEGE

Won't update landline voice-mail systems in this era of cell phones

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Netted \$10,000 by going digital, moving some athletics publications online

Athletics

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

Saved \$900 when its women's swim team held a virtual meet against nearby Dickinson; each team's swimmers raced in their home pool, and then they compared times to declare winners

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Kept \$485,000 by cutting eight varsity sports teams, including the hand-pistol, alpine-skiing and wrestling teams

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Punted its 100-member football team, saving \$485,000

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Asked its cheerleaders to hang up their pom-poms, saving \$45,000

