

Board seeks \$1 million aid supplement

By TODD MERRIMAN
Of the Emerald

PORTLAND (Special) — Acting to offset an anticipated reduction in federal financial aid to students, the State Board of Higher Education voted Tuesday to ask the State Legislature for \$1 million to supplement work-study and grant programs.

The board also endorsed a state loan program designed to counter the decreased availability of federal loan funds.

The board's action was prompted by the Nixon administration's elimination of National Direct Student Loans and Economic Opportunity

Grants from the Congressional budget for higher education.

In addition, federal work-study funds have been reduced \$20 million from the previous level.

If the Nixon budget gains Congressional approval, the reduction will amount to a \$2 million loss of financial aid to students in Oregon for the 1973-74 school year.

Gerald Bogen, vice president for student services, predicts 800 students will be unable to continue at the University if the federal cutbacks become reality.

The proposal to provide state funds to compensate for the federal reductions gained easy approval from the board.

Board member Elizabeth Johnson provided the only opposition to the plan. She expressed concern that the board's

action would be "building a case for direct subsidy" of students.

Johnson also questioned the extent of the need for financial aid among students.

She suggested that figures demonstrating financial need are inflated by the fact that some students choose to attend colleges away from their home towns even though there is a local college available.

By attending the more distant college, these students incur extra costs for housing, Johnson said.

The remainder of the board, however, seemed in agreement with board member John Mosser's statement that "We have to help fill the gap that could deprive us of over 2,000 students."

The board's proposal, if approved by the legislature, would add \$500,000 yearly to the state grant program which is administered by the State Scholarship Commission.

An additional \$500,000 would be granted yearly to the state work-study program.

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House committee told

Foreign students decreasing

SALEM (Special) — The number of foreign students attending Oregon institutions of higher education is decreasing because of a phase out of scholarships awarded to nonresident students and rising tuition costs, the House Education Committee was told Tuesday.

Several University students were among persons testifying in favor of a bill which would allow the State Scholarship Commission to award fee remission scholarships to foreign students.

The bill, HB 2782, provides that up to two per cent of the students enrolled at any state institution of higher education may be awarded fee remissions equalling the difference between nonresident and resident fees.

University student Bill Fidler, representing the International Education Center, told the committee, "There is a need for a cosmopolitan atmosphere at the University of Oregon."

"If you are a foreign student who, while attending one of Oregon's seven colleges and universities, happens to run into financial difficulties, you are in trouble," Fidler testified.

Federal programs of financial aid such as the work-study program are available only to U.S. citizens, Fidler pointed out, and immigration laws prohibit foreign students from working during the school year. Loans, he said, "are also out of the question."

Until 1971 some money was available through the state scholarship commission to help nonresident students, Fidler said. Those funds, however, are being phased out, he added.

Jeff Lee, executive director of the State Scholarship Commission, told the committee that the commission recommended the nonresident scholarship phase out so that Oregon students could be better accommodated.

The commission, however, also recommended that the foreign students' scholarship remission program be continued, Lee said. But when the legislature voted to phase out the out-of-state scholarships, it did not retain any provision for foreign students, he added.

Dr. Kenneth Ghent, foreign student administrator at the University, told the committee, "We are essentially asking for a reinstatement of the part of the scholarship program that allowed us to make awards to foreign students entering the University."

Junung Tsai, president of the University Chinese Student Association, agreed with Ghent. "International cooperation can start when you bring in international students," he told the committee.

The Chinese Student Association, for example, has been working with directors of the 1973 Oregon State Fair to develop a theme of "West Meets East," Tsai said.

And the association also offers free Chinese instruction to any student at the University, he added.

ASUO President Bill Wyatt told the committee that the fee remission program would not be very expensive.

Under the measure, about 300 students at the University simply would not pay the difference between out-of-state and in-state tuition, Wyatt explained, thereby diluting the services available to all students. "But the impact is very small from my observation," Wyatt said.

The committee, which is considering the bill prior to consideration by the Joint Ways and Means Committee, took no action on the measure Tuesday.

ASUO funds WRA trip

The ASUO is providing \$2,000 for the Women's Recreation Association (WRA) to send the women's gymnastic team to a national meet in Des Moines, Iowa, this spring, says Bill Wyatt, ASUO president.

The meet, which is sponsored by the Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletics for Women, will take place on April 21 and 22. The money will be used for the travel expenses and entry fees for the 13-woman team.

When the Senate was abolished, the salaries of the senators were frozen and Wyatt felt that this is a valid way to use those funds.

Wyatt said that it is unfortunate that women's athletics had not been given a higher priority in previous years by the ASUO or the administration.

Giving the \$2,000 to the WRA is an important step, according to Wyatt, in showing support for the formation of a women's inter-collegiate athletics program equal to the men's program.

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