

Tuition raises offset?

Student costs overestimated by state education officials

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

The State Emergency Board recently suggested that \$540,000 of "over-realized," tuition funds be spent to defer a possible raise in next year's tuition costs for resident undergraduate students.

Each year higher education officials estimate students' academic costs.

This year, Freeman Holmer, State System of Higher Education vice-chancellor, says the "estimate is so close that the net error of about \$500,000 is only about 1.25 percent off.

The Emergency Board has asked the state system to make a report on the suggestion.

Holmer says the report is in the process of preparation. He adds, "We are hopeful of being able to make our report to the Emergency Board at its next meeting."

That meeting is scheduled for April 6.

Although the report hasn't been worked out in detail, Holmer says, "It will reflect the over-realized tuition income in arriving at the rates we'll recommend in 1978-79."

University Pres. William Boyd says it's his understanding the chancellor will "report back to the

Emergency Board the intention of the state System to use as much of the money as is reasonable to offset next year's tuition" for undergraduate residents.

Boyd originally did not support the idea of the tuition break going only to undergraduate resident students. He says he "would prefer that all students' benefit from the excess money accumulated.

ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman asked Boyd to reconsider, however, and after some debate, Boyd decided that "practically and politically, I believe the chancellor's decision is the correct one."

The idea is a "no-loss proposition for the University," says Feldman.

When asked about the tuition decrease benefiting only the resident undergraduates, Feldman says he's trying to help students in the long term.

Although the state system's report will not involve a consultation with university and college presidents, they will be given due notice of the decision.

Boyd says his support will come in the form of lack of opposition, and if asked, direct support.

The final decision rests with the State Board of Higher Education. The board will probably make its decision after the Emergency Board reports their findings.

Despite emergency funds University \$600,000 in hole

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

Despite the recent \$3,766,929 gift to the University from the state Emergency Board, the University faces a projected \$600,000 deficit for the balance of this biennium, according to University Pres. William Boyd's financial progress report to faculty members.

"With the help from the Emergency Board, we will be able to get through this biennium without the additional painful program reductions, which would otherwise have been required next year," he said.

However, Boyd added that, "some stringent budget reductions and control measures will still be necessary."

Boyd wrote that the University intends to recover from the projected deficit by three proposed means.

First, \$100,000 is available as a carryover from program reductions already made for 1977-78. The suspension of the School of

Librarianship and cuts in the Wallace School of Public Affairs are notable examples.

The second plan entails removing \$200,000 from the non-academic budget base through program reduction. Some of the savings will apparently come from the Office of Student Affairs.

The third method would accumulate the remaining \$300,000 through the systematic recovery of salary savings as they occur throughout the University. This means positions will be left unfilled, combined or filled with lower-paid help.

"This kind of centralized administration will doubtless be resented in some quarters, but it will be less damaging to our students and our colleagues than any alternative approaches now available.

"Further reductions will be necessary in 1979-80," he continued, "because we will lose one percent per year until we descend to the 'natural level' prescribed by our enrollment. The 'slow-slide' is better than the plunge, but they

both end at the same point."

"Slow-slide" represents a legislative formula for Universities to reduce their budgets at a slower, easier pace. Although it protects state institutions against plummet changes, it still offers no help against the inevitable budget reductions connected with a "student-driven model," according to Boyd.

The president also said enrollment problems still lie ahead. He emphasized that some equilibrium between enrollment growth and program reduction is required.

Boyd urged his colleagues to improve the University's responsiveness to students and public needs.

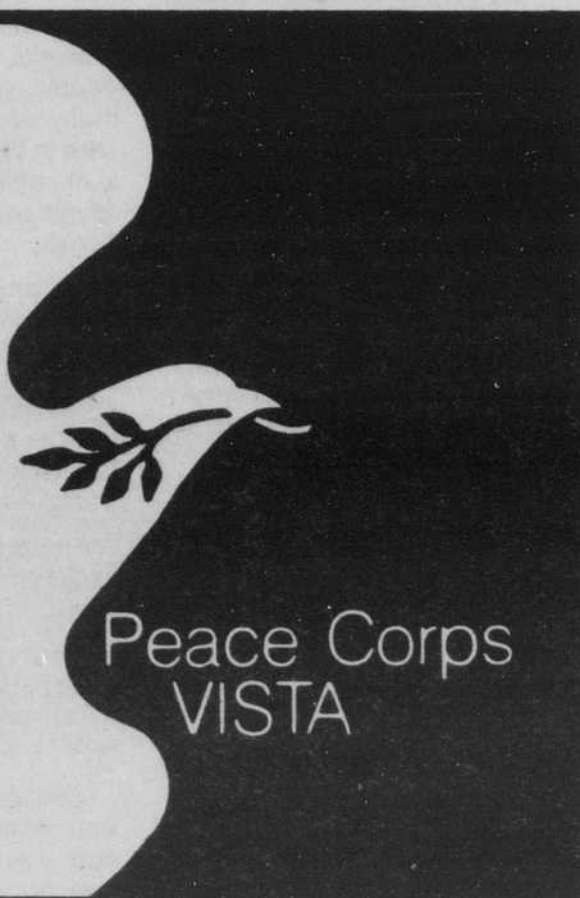
"If to your professional competence we add a humane determination to treat younger students as we would like our sons and daughters to be treated, and if we meet the different needs of older persons who are ready to return to college, we can turn our situation around within the next biennium."

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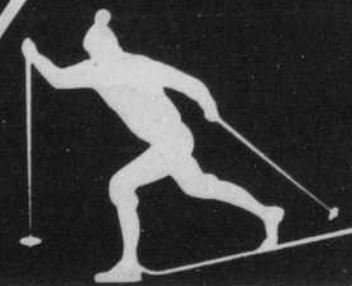
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