

## Tuition freeze ranks high

# OSL chairer lists top legislative goals

By SALLY HODGKINSON  
Of the Emerald

SALEM — A tuition freeze for resident students and statewide mandatory release of faculty-course evaluations are among the Oregon Student Lobby's list of legislative priorities.

"Many Oregonians will be de-

nied post-secondary educational opportunities if Gov. Vic Atiyeh's biennial budget recommendations for the Department of Higher Education are approved by the Legislature," OSL Board of Directors Chairer Norhum Chandler said in a Tuesday press conference.

Reading from a prepared statement, Chandler said the OSL

will advocate a tuition freeze for resident students and a limited increase for non-residents.

Atiyeh's recommended increases in tuition range from 28 percent for resident undergraduates to 70 percent for non-resident graduate students, Chandler said, calling it the largest tuition jump in over a decade.

Undergraduates at Oregon's state colleges and universities currently pay 18 percent more in tuition and fees than the national average, while graduates pay 61 percent more, Chandler said.

"Since 1969, tuition has increased about 30 percent more than the Consumer Price Index and 18 percent more than the cost of instruction," he said. "Clearly, students have been bearing a disproportionate share of cost increases for more than a decade."

Atiyeh, in proposing the tuition levels, has "renegeed on his gubernatorial campaign promise to college students to keep tuition

low," Chandler charged. "These proposed tuition increases are also in violation of the spirit of Pres. Carter's voluntary, seven percent wage and price controls."

The OSL also supports continuing the current financial aid program, opposing Atiyeh's proposal to reduce financial aid now available to students from middle-income families.

Chandler said the number of scholarship grants for middle-income students will be ignored. Both factors will eliminate a substantial number of previously eligible students.

Rep. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, has introduced a bill at the request of the OSL which would mandate the release of faculty-course evaluation results for state system schools, reported Chandler.

The bill, HB 2831, is similar to one which died in the Senate last session after passage in the House.

Major differences between last session's bill and HB 2831 are that the evaluations would pertain to faculty and course, and that results would be released to the student associations which would decide whether to publish them. Additionally, rebuttals by faculty members would be published with the evaluations and evaluations for first term would not be published but would instead be released to faculty members.

"Not only will the release of faculty-course evaluations enhance the academic quality of

students' educational experience, but it would act as a 'financial aid' measure by increasing the credit hour load of students by reducing the number of courses dropped," said Chandler.

The OSL is also concerned with increasing criticism of the competency of college graduates, said Chandler, who said the drop results from the number of faculty members who are ineffective as instructors. "These instructors severely hinder students' ability to learn course material and thereby substantially harm the quality of education the students would hope to receive," said Chandler.

Lack of training is the reason for faculty ineffectiveness, said Chandler, adding that only at the university and college level is an instructor not required to have any prior training or aptitude for teaching.

"The fault of poor instruction must be shared by an education system presently based upon the fallacy that good researchers are good teachers," he said.

The OSL is proposing a system-wide instructional improvement project which would create opportunities for faculty members to improve instruction techniques through workshop and counseling, said Chandler.

Other OSL legislative priorities include gaining minimum wage for student employees, gaining child care for low income students, providing accessibility for handicapped in state system buildings, gaining funding for women's athletics and creating a student position on the educational coordination council.

Rep. Gretchen Kafoury, D-Portland, has introduced a bill at the request of the OSL which would designate \$650,000 for child care needs of low income students.

"This program will, in effect, break the circle of poverty by allowing women, stuck in low-paying jobs and dependent upon state financed child care, to remove themselves from public assistance," said Chandler.

The OSL supports inclusion within the Department of Higher Education budget \$450,000 for women's athletics.

"This general fund support will help reduce the inequality currently existing between men's and women's athletic programs," said Chandler.

The OSL also endorses Atiyeh's recommendation that \$7.2 million be appropriated for construction renovations at state colleges and universities to make them accessible to the handicapped.

"The OSL identifies with the taxpayers' frustrations over the increasing costs of government and the declining quality of its services. We believe these principles are embodied in our legislative program," Chandler concluded.

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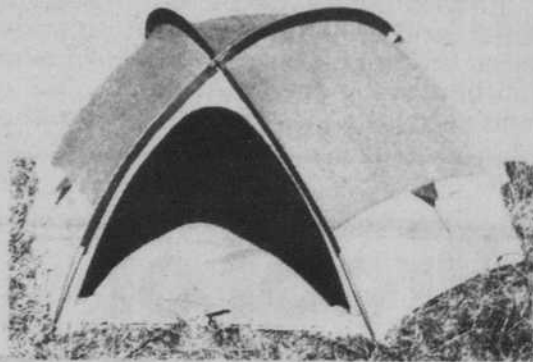
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