

Olum says to cut tax relief before higher ed

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

Property tax relief funds should be cut before the Legislature slashes \$264 million from state agencies' budgets, says Acting University Pres. Paul Olum.

Olum, speaking in a Wednesday morning press conference, said it is unfair to place the deficit burden on just state agencies including the State System of Higher Education.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh ordered all state agencies to draw up a list of possible budget reductions totaling 30 percent. For the state system, that translates into a \$60 million loss in state funding — a \$11 million cut at the University.

"It would be far more equitable to compensate for that loss of income (the

deficit) by withholding, entirely on the basis of ability to pay, some part of the funds set aside for property tax relief," Olum said.

"For example, with my present salary as acting president of the University, it would be completely appropriate that I receive no such tax relief at all."

Cutting tax relief for higher income taxpayers "would place the burden on those most able to bear it and would preserve the quality of our educational institutions."

Proposed cuts at the University include closing the community service and public affairs school, cutting library acquisitions by one-third, eliminating all physical education classes for non-majors and cutting public service programs.

But Olum vowed to fight the cuts. If any cuts are made, they will be "reversible changes" that could be restored in the next biennium. He added that the University "will not let" the CSPA program close.

Olum also said he is unhappy about a plan to offset budget cuts by increasing tuition \$50 per term for all state system students. If the increase is approved by the State Board of Higher Education in its meeting July 25, the high tuition increase undoubtedly will have some effect on enrollment, Olum said.

The board already has approved a \$20 per term increase for resident undergraduates. If the board OKs the proposed \$12 increase in incidental fees to cover the Athletic Department's deficit, resident undergraduates at the University

will pay \$82 per term more than last year.

"Again you are talking about putting the burden on a limited number of people," Olum said. "That shouldn't be done unless we're driven to it."

Olum said higher education already has taken "great cuts in recent years," and faculty salary increases have fallen 17 percent behind the average Oregon worker.

"It is wrong to hurt more those who have already been hurt so much."

Despite the budget problems, Olum says he is still optimistic about his new job.

"This (budget cut) is not going to stop us. We'll get through this year somehow."

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IFC money saves Crisis Center

The University Crisis Center solved a crisis of its own Monday night, thanks to some sympathetic members of the Incidental Fee Committee.

Due to a misunderstanding between the Student Health Service and the IFC, the center was faced with having to close its doors permanently because of an insufficient 1980-81 operating budget.

The center is funded by student fees from the SHS and the IFC. In its spring budget request, the center asked for approximately \$6,000 from each source.

Both the IFC and the SHS approved the budget request,

but former ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett vetoed the IFC budget, telling the committee to halve its allocation to the center. The center adjusted its operating plans to coincide with a budget of \$9,570 — \$6,183 from the SHS and \$3,387 from the IFC.

However, the SHS recently told the center it only would match the IFC allocation. Faced with a budget of less than \$7,000, the center no longer could remain open, Crisis Center Director Zach Schwartz told the IFC during its meeting Monday night.

Schwartz requested another \$1,600 from the IFC, telling the five members present the SHS

would match the figure if it was approved, allowing the center to operate with the original revised budget.

By a 4-1 vote, the IFC approved the request and authorized an additional \$1,560 for the center from its unallocated reserves. IFC chairer Alan Contreras urged other committee members to vote for the request because the revised IFC funding figure of \$3,225 was based on an expected \$6,183 from the SHS.

Contreras said the IFC was unaware this spring that the SHS would only match their figure.

briefs

LECTURES

"Radical Humanism — A spiritual/political Synthesis" will be the topic for a lecture by the global chief secretary of Progressive Utilization Theory, a new age political theory with a humanistic/spiritual base, at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the South Room of Harris Hall.

Contemporary Japanese art is the topic of a free public lecture Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the University Museum of Art. Speaker is Sumio Kuwabara, Japanese art professor at the Tsukuba Institute of Art and Design in Tokyo.

Natural Dental Wellness, a lecture on herbs, diet, self-examination and oral

massage and exercises to help keep dental health, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. July 30 at Whitebird Sociomedical Aid Station, 341 E. 12th Ave. For more information call Amy at 342-8255.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Curry/Osland Dance Company will present a free modern dance concert in the central plaza area of the Eugene Downtown Mall at 8:30 p.m. Monday. "Downtown Dances" will feature choreography utilizing sections of the mall fountain and new works commissioned for this concert.

The Women Against War study group now meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. to discuss how

war and the draft affect women. For more information and meeting place, call 343-4864.

Drinking Decisions will present a free orientation for the next 10-week series of classes at 7 tonight in room 306 of the Lane Community College Downtown Center, 1059 Willamette St. For more information, call 484-9274 between 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Survival Center, located in Suite I EMU, has a file containing current information on trails, campsites and recreation areas for the summer. To find out what areas are open, come by the office or call 686-4356.

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