

# Financial crisis proposal prepared by chancellor

By **BILL MANNY**  
Of the Emerald

A state of "financial exigency" would be declared and thousands of students, faculty and staff would be eliminated under Chancellor Roy Lieuallen's funding reduction proposal.

A final decision won't be made until this spring or summer—when the Legislature allocates money to the university system. But the Joint Ways and Means Committee has asked the State Board of Higher Education and Chancellor Lieuallen's office for a recommendation on handling a possible crisis.

Lieuallen met with university presidents Feb. 17 and with faculty members and student body presidents this last weekend to review a draft of five "decision packages" outlining how the state system would respond to a 10 percent cut in funding, below the level proposed by Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

Lieuallen will have a final proposal ready for scrutiny at the state board meeting in Portland on Friday.

That response would entail several measures requiring a financial exigency declaration—an emergency legal condition akin to bankruptcy. But how and when it would be declared is a matter of debate.

"We're not proposing anything at this time," Lieuallen stressed. "I'm not sure what will happen."

There was talk of a system-wide declaration of financial exigency, but that met with protests from university presidents and faculty.

Currently, such a declaration can be made only by individual institutions. The idea of an exigency declaration "in anticipation" of a problem was untenable to University Pres. Paul Olum.

"The danger (of such a declaration) is a self-fulfilling prophecy," Olum said. "It scares many people. It scares your own people."

Olum likened it to the "big hassle last summer," when there was talk of closing the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center to help meet a then-estimated 30 percent budget cut.

"Just talking about it hurts," Olum said.

"We need to do all the fighting we can to stop the 10 percent cut," said Katherine Eaton, president of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors and head of the University's Bureau of Government Research Library.

"It's putting your head on the chopping block to say 'Bankruptcy is OK for us.'"

Lieuallen was willing to compromise on the point.

"If there is substantial opposition to that (a system-wide declaration), we can do it institution by institution," the chancellor said. "It will increase the red tape, but I don't see any significant problem with it."

Faculty groups were adamant in their opposition to cutting faculty salaries. Eaton said salaries are currently far behind inflation, and that faculty members will not accept any further loss to inflation—even at the expense of some of its members, students or programs.

"We could not support a 5 percent decrease," Eaton said. "We can't cut back any more. I think Lieuallen was surprised at the unanimity from around the state."

The Associated Oregon Faculties, on whose board Eaton sits, has previously endorsed Atiyeh's various tax proposals that would give the system enough funds to avoid a 10-percent cut.

Eaton said the faculty "recognized the chancellor's need" to devise a budget option, but supported an effort to convince Legislators not to ask higher education to cut back any further than the governor's proposed "minimum level budget."

## Abortion foes continue fight

By **GREG WASSON**  
Of the Emerald

In 1978, Oregon voters rejected a Senate legislative effort to ban the use of state funds for most abortions. Undaunted, abortion opponents have introduced a similar measure in the Legislature.

The revived measure says that except when federal matching funds are involved or when the operation is required to save the mother's life, no government funds at any level will be used "for performing abortions, for abortion facilities, for the encouraging or promotion of abortion, or for the referring of women for performance of abortion."

Rep. Margie Hendriksen, D-Eugene, says it's no surprise that abortion opponents haven't accepted the 1978 initiative's defeat.

"The people involved in the right to life or compulsory pregnancy movement are a coherent, well organized, aggressive group. At every opportunity, they try to get their viewpoint imposed in law.

"It is a minority viewpoint which is being imposed on the majority. They've been very successful at the federal level and they're trying to carry that momentum to the legislature," Hendriksen says.

Susan DeLilse, director of the Lane County Family Planning office, says the reasons she fought against the 1978 initiative are still causing her to oppose the new bill.

"The fight remains one in which they want to remove any kind of choice for poor women. They will look at any place to stop abortions and the easiest place is with poor women.

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That's particularly true in view of the budget picture."

However, DeLilse says, if the abortion argument is reduced to economic terms, it doesn't make sense to make the operation harder to get.

"All evidence and statistics validate that it is far more expensive for the taxpayer to fund prenatal care, delivery, and welfare payments."

Supporters of the measure didn't return phone calls by press time.

Ten male legislators are

sponsors of the bill. The same men, along with Rep. Peg Jolin, D-Cottage Grove, have introduced legislation that would mandate the Health Division to collect and publish statistics concerning post-abortion complications.

"The complication rate for prenatal care, labor and delivery, particularly for teenagers, is extremely high. The premature birth rate, the maternal death rate and the morbidity rate is staggering," DeLilse says.

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