

Olum: next cut will close major portion of school

By DEBBIE HOWLETT
Of the Emerald

A panel of six administrators and committee chairmen discussed higher education budget cuts both proposed and implemented in 1981-82 and the possibility of further reductions Tuesday at a meeting of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The panel, representing many facets of the budget's decision-making body, agreed that a gray cloud hangs over the University.

Suggestions that the University is "whistling past the pioneer graveyard" if further budget cuts are not discussed.

The discussion became heated with the suggestion even further budget cuts might be mandated.

After listening to a number of prospects for further reductions, University Pres. Paul Olum questioned the priorities of the state.

"There was a surplus of \$700 million in the state last year and it was foolishly returned to the taxpayers. Why couldn't an educational 'budget stabilization reserve' have been put into effect."

"If we have to make another two or three or four percent cut, there is no place left to go except to close major portions of the school."

By closing a school "we would save about an average of \$150,000, add up how many we would have to close to meet another four percent cut."

T.K. Olsen, director of the educational coordinating committee, said "It's (the University) like a big octopus and we may have to cut one of the arms off."

"Which arm?" asked Olum.

Earlier in the discussion, Olum urged faculty members not to "give up," advising them not to accept "virtual destruction."

Kappy Eaton, chairer for the University senate, told the membership, "the faculty must become involved on issues that impinge upon the very center of the faculty's existence."



Paul Olum

Emerald Photo

"We face the issues of tenure and whether it's on its way out... we need to investigate security and the gains we've made in the hiring of minorities and women."

"We need good, constructive communication and we need creative, constructive involvement."

When asked if "the octopus" would regenerate its severed arm, Ed Harms, president of the board of higher education said, "that's what we've got to hope."

Affirmative action losing, says Bell

SALEM (AP) — The dean of the University law school told state officials here Tuesday that the proponents of affirmative action are losing ground in their battle to gain equal job opportunities for minorities and women.

"Despite measurable gains in some areas, proponents of affirmative action are rather clearly losing the battle to gain society's acceptance of racially preferential policies as a means of gaining justice for blacks and other minorities," Derrick Bell said.

Bell told a group of about 60 government employees attending the governor's affirmative action conference that "this is a conference, not a celebration."

"American whites have spoken and our government (at the national level) has listened," he said.

Bell said that Reagan Administration appointees heading the Equal Opportunity Commission and the Civil Rights Division were to-

ken appointments that went to people who had no experience in civil rights work.

Bell urged the government workers to recognize the current mood of the federal government and resist change at the state level.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh also spoke to the group, saying he was aware that gains in affirmative action will be more difficult with state budget cuts.

But he pledged to try to continue the move towards equal treatment.

"I don't think we can put affirmative action on the back burner at any time," he said.

Atiyeh said affirmative action is "a state of mind" and he asked state workers to have a personal commitment to the program, rather than just following state policy.

"By the end of today, you will have more ammunition to be missionaries," Atiyeh said, "missionaries in convincing others that it's good for them and good for the country."

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Corrections

In Monday's Emerald article, "Problems disable PLUS," Physically Limited Union of Students Director Chester Faller was quoted as saying he had approached the State System of Higher Education Chancellor's Office regarding a lawsuit.

Faller in fact approached the University Affirmative Action office about alleged violations. Faller is initiating a lawsuit against the Chancellor's Office.

Also, in Tuesday's Emerald story, "IFC declines to finance trip to architects' meeting," Barbara Paca was inadvertently identified as Peggy Meneice.

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