

Financial exigency may be necessary, Olum says

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

The budget recommendations presented by Gov. Vic Atiyeh Monday ask for a \$28 million cut in higher education's 1982-83 budget, an amount that University Pres. Paul Olum said would require the University to declare financial exigency.

Atiyeh's \$28 million cut includes — virtually intact — the first two of four 5-percent cut packages approved by the State Board of Higher Education at its December meeting.

"I'm disappointed... I guess surprised," Olum said Monday. "I really didn't think he'd propose a 10-percent cut."

Contained in the two 5-percent packages are a four-day forced leave without pay for all higher education academic and classified staff during the 1981-82 school year, a 16.5-day forced leave without pay for all staff during the 1982-83 school year, the elimination of all general fund support for summer session, and a tuition surcharge to cover tuition revenue shortfalls.

The forced leave for faculty members really means a salary decrease, Olum said, adding "I don't see how it's possible to cut faculty salaries without the declaration of exigency."

That declaration probably would be made by individual institutions, he said.

Olum said he also feared the tuition surcharge would make higher education "impossible" for many students. The tuition increase might not even raise additional money, considering the number who will drop out each time tuition is raised, he said.

Bill Lemman, the state board's vice chancellor for administration, said the surcharge discussed in Atiyeh's plan probably will be the \$49-per-term surcharge imposed for winter and spring term this year.

Although there's a chance the surcharge could be increased, it probably won't be, he said. However, tuition will increase another 19-percent next fall as a result of decisions made last summer.

The only item in the two packages that will not be cut, according to Atiyeh's plan, is \$416,900 for the Psychiatric Day Treatment Center at the Oregon Health Sciences University.

Atiyeh's plan requires no further program reductions, but is still "damaging to the quality" of higher education, Olum said. He said the salary cut "could, in fact, drive away some of our best faculty."

Olum also said he feels it is unfair to put the burden of the state budget shortfall only on the salaries of higher education personnel.

"Our faculty and staff are already underpaid, compared with the general workforce," he said.

Reps blast education cuts

By CHRIS COURTNIER
Of the Emerald

"Disastrous" and "devastating" were words used by Rep. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, to describe the effect Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposed budget cuts may have on the University.

Kerans, along with Reps. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, and Margie Hendrickson, D-Eugene, heard testimony Monday from local residents displeased with proposed cuts in Lane County program funding.

While some offered solutions to Lane County's budget problems, all agreed an alternative to slashing education and human

service programs must be met.

"It's going to be disastrous (to cut the University's budget)," Kerans said. "We're selling out our future."

"It's imperative as legislators from this area that we fully understand the impact of lost revenues," he said.

Kerans' answer to Lane County budget problems is restructuring the property tax relief program.

Among those at Monday's meeting were Chancellor Roy Lieullen and University Pres. Paul Olum.

Atiyeh is proposing an estimated 20-percent cut of the University budget. To meet just

half of this cut, the University would be forced to close at least four professional schools, Olum said.

"Closing the four schools would deny access to some 3,800 students, many of them in the middle of their academic programs," he said.

"The State of Oregon would lose \$7 million in contract and grant funds, and we would be forced to dismiss over 200 employees. This is all for just one 5-percent level," Olum said.


"Everyone recognizes that this would surely destroy the University. We would regard any such action as unthinkable."

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