

Committee lambasts budget package

Higher education's cut: \$28 million

SALEM (AP) — Oregon community colleges would turn away thousands of students and employees and four-year colleges would lose up to three weeks' pay under budget slashing proposals outlined to legislators Tuesday.

A Joint Ways & Means subcommittee got its first briefing on Gov. Vic Atiyeh's plan to slice \$28 million from the System of Higher Education and carve \$7.7 million from aid to community colleges.

Lawmakers on the committee, most of them Democrats, sharply criticized the Republican governor's recommendations.

"This budget isn't worth the paper it's written on if it's (based) on economic development," Rep. Vera Katz, D-Portland.

Atiyeh said, in his budget statement, that maintaining economic development activities was a top priority as he drafted \$147 million in proposed spending cuts to head off a projected budget deficit.

Katz said quality education is a prime factor considered by companies that are looking for states in which to expand. She said it doesn't appear that Atiyeh considers higher education a boon to economic development.

"Either you don't understand the factors that promote economic development or your analysis is totally inadequate," she told Executive Department budget analyst Mike Lincicum.

Democratic Sen. Frank Roberts, a Portland State University professor, lambasted Atiyeh's proposal to force faculty members and other higher education employees to take unpaid leaves to save \$14.5 million.

"The best way to destroy higher education is to tell people they're going to get a pay cut," he said. "It will drive... the best professors right out of the system."

Lincicum said Atiyeh's plan calls for college employees on nine-month contracts, mostly faculty members, to have 12-and-a-half-day unpaid furloughs.

Office workers and others employed year-round would face 16 days of unpaid leave.

Budget analysts said the furloughs amount to pay cuts averaging 7.8 percent between now and the end of the current two-year budget period in June 1983.

Roberts said he feared that Atiyeh based his budget decisions on the "most expeditious way to solve the deficit" instead of the best way.

A report by the Legislature's Fiscal Office terms unpaid furloughs "the ultimate short-term response to budgetary shortages."

"The curious aspect of the governor's recommendations for higher education is that no other agency appears to be required to apply this kind of solution," the report says.

The Legislature will convene in special session Jan. 18 to act on Atiyeh's plan, which also include several revenue-raising measures to cope with a projected deficit of \$237 million.

The governor's higher education cuts also would eliminate state support for summer term programs, forcing sharp student fee increases if summer programs were maintained.

Another effect of Atiyeh's plan would be to substantially cut state-subsidized medical care for poor people at Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital in Portland.

State subsidies for costs of routine obstetrics would end, and outpatient treatment would be reduced by 30 percent.

The maximum age for patients to qualify for the hospital's crippled children's treatment programs would be lowered from 21 to 18 except for treatment of hemophiliacs, who would remain eligible until age 21.

Grants from the state Scholarship Commission for medical students would be phased out, and tuition grants for other students at public colleges would be reduced.



Emerald graphic

Law school nets \$10,000 grant

Hope Gibson Donal, a 1981 graduate of the University's School of Law, has given the school \$10,000 to establish a fund to provide scholarships for academically talented minority students.

Donal cited the need for minority lawyers in Oregon in making the gift. She currently is an adjunct professor in the University's College of Education, teaching law-related certification classes for school superintendents and principals.

"Donal's gift certainly ranks among the largest gifts ever received by the law school from an individual living donor," said Derrick Bell, the school's dean.

"The law school is most appreciative of the gift, both for its substantial size and for the significant need it will help to meet," Bell said. "We have begun a major effort to let our alumni know how much their support is needed, and hope Donal's gift is an indication that plea is being heard."

Supreme Court Justice Edwin T. Peterson, who currently chairs the law school's Board of Visitors, said the board has been "vitally concerned with funding the law school program

at a level consistent with quality legal education." The gift will make a contribution to quality education, he said.

"We hope that Donal's gift will be the catalyst for other substantial gifts from the Law School's alumni," said Peterson, who himself has undergraduate and law degrees from the University.

Bell said the gift has been used to start the Hope Gibson Scholarship Fund through the University of Oregon Foundation. Yearly income from the endowment will be used to defray the costs of legal education for highly qualified minority students.

"The present gift is only a beginning," Donal said. "Even at current interest rates, this amount will not provide all the scholarships needed for talented minority students."

Others may contribute to the endowment fund. For information, contact Derrick Bell at the School of Law or phone the University of Oregon Foundation.

Donal has taught locally at the Fern Ridge Elementary School and served an internship at Kennedy Junior High School.

She has worked elsewhere as an elementary and junior high school teacher and as a school principal.

She received her bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State University in 1964 and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Hawaii in 1967.



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