

GTFs criticize salary cuts

By **DEBBIE HOWLETT**
Of the Emerald

Political action and a letter writing campaign were the main topics in a convocation between University Pres. Paul Olum and Graduate Teaching Fellows Thursday evening.

During the hour-long meeting, the GTFs asked for alternative ideas to the reduction of salaries and personnel as well as suggestions from Olum, Provost Richard Hill and Curt Simic, vice president of public relations, about which legislators should be targeted for a letter writing campaign. A plan for lobbying efforts was also announced.

At the onset of the meeting, Olum gave an overview of the proposed two-step, five percent budget packages that Gov. Vic Atiyeh requested last month. The first budget package includes an already imposed, \$49 tuition "surcharge" and a 1.5 percent cut in faculty and staff salaries.

The second part of the package outlines cuts in faculty and staff already employed, as well as salary cuts.

Olum also explained that some progress has been made with the House Ways and Means Committee in that they are "dead opposed to the second package of five percent cuts."

Pointing to the fact that Oregon ranks 48th in the nation among state support for higher education and that "among a select group of West Coast universities," Oregon ranks first in tuition cost, several GTF's demanded alternative plans.

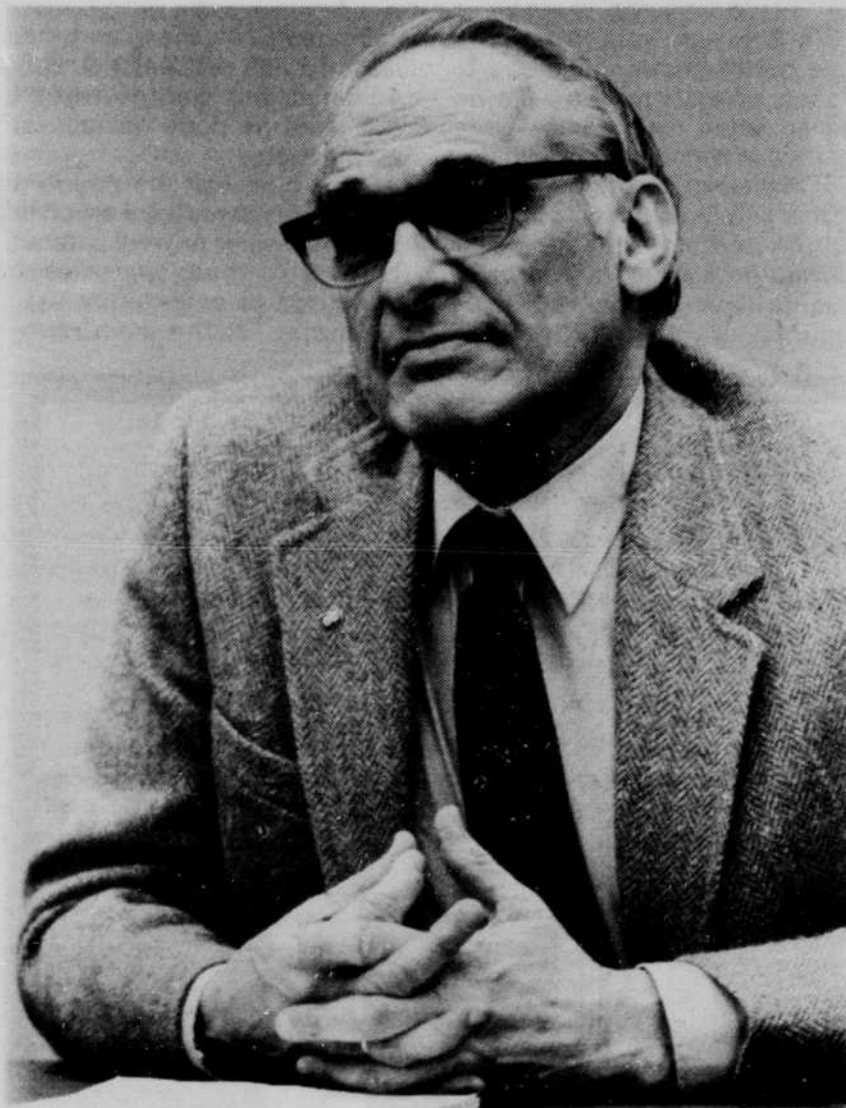


Photo by David Corey

Paul Olum

Among the alternatives suggested were an income tax surcharge, a property tax relief "correction" and a rollback of tax exemptions.

Olum also pointed out that several "top-quality, tenured" professors have been offered as

much as 50 percent more in salary from other universities. In order to keep those professors, the University cannot afford a cut in pay, said Olum.

The GTF Federation also plans an extensive lobbying effort in Salem.

Award nominations due soon

Nominations for the University's Distinguished Service Award, an annual award presented at the June commencement, are due Jan. 11 at the University President's office.

Recipients, according to May 1956 faculty legislation, shall be persons "who by their knowledge and skills have made a significant contribution to the cultural development of Oregon

or society as a whole."

Previous honorees include governors Charles Sprague and Tom McCall, Sen. Wayne Morse, author Ken Kesey, Nobel laureate Linus Pauling, and noted newspapermen Palmer Hoyt, Glenn Jackson, and Eric Allen, Jr.

Recipients cannot be current members of the University faculty, staff, and student body,

State Board of Education, or candidates for political office. Awards are not given posthumously.

The number of awards is limited to three per year.

Nomination forms, which ask for the nominee's name, address, field, references, and biographical sketch, are available from Pres. Paul Olum's office in Johnson Hall.

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