

Despite \$2.1 million deficit

University provost says lawmakers won't cut faculty

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

The University Senate met yesterday with perhaps its lightest agenda of this academic year. While the Senate had few items marked for the afternoon meeting, most of the talk was dark with budget figures from the special session of the Legislature.

"It looks as if we are eventually going to face a five percent cut," University Provost Dick Hill told the senate.

"That's the best estimate we can get from our best friends," Hill said.

Hill updated information on the special session and gave the Senate the "latest" figures in the ever-changing budget picture.

Hill also told the Senate that the education subcommittee of the full House Ways and Means committee was staunchly opposed to any reduction in full-time equivalents for faculty, whether it was through a furlough or reduction. Hill added that the subcommittee's stance still leaves a \$2.1 million deficit.

Other discussion from Salem was in the form of tuition rollbacks in two phases. A decrease of \$12 has been proposed for next year and a \$37 increase at another time. Hill said that the revenue

lost to the State System of higher education will be around \$6 million from these rollbacks and that these deficits will have to be made-up through program reduction.

When questioned about an article appearing in Monday's *Emerald* that gave odds for cuts in different schools within the University, Hill responded by saying that "the Jimmy the Greek" story was just so much "journalistic garbage."

Hill also told the senate that the Ways and Means Committee has sent the Governor's budget package to the State Senate for a vote, without any recommendations. Hill said that it was his feeling that the Senate would reject the proposals and then the House would have to "get its act together," and begin some alternative legislation.

In the only motion before the Senate, Thomas Brady, a University history professor, re-introduced a motion he presented to the University Assembly recently, declaring that the University faculty has "no confidence" in the board of higher education or Chancellor Roy Lieuallen.

The motion was defeated without a vote favoring it. There were several abstentions.

Robert James, professor of fine arts, said that the faculty should "conduct business other than adversarial relations."

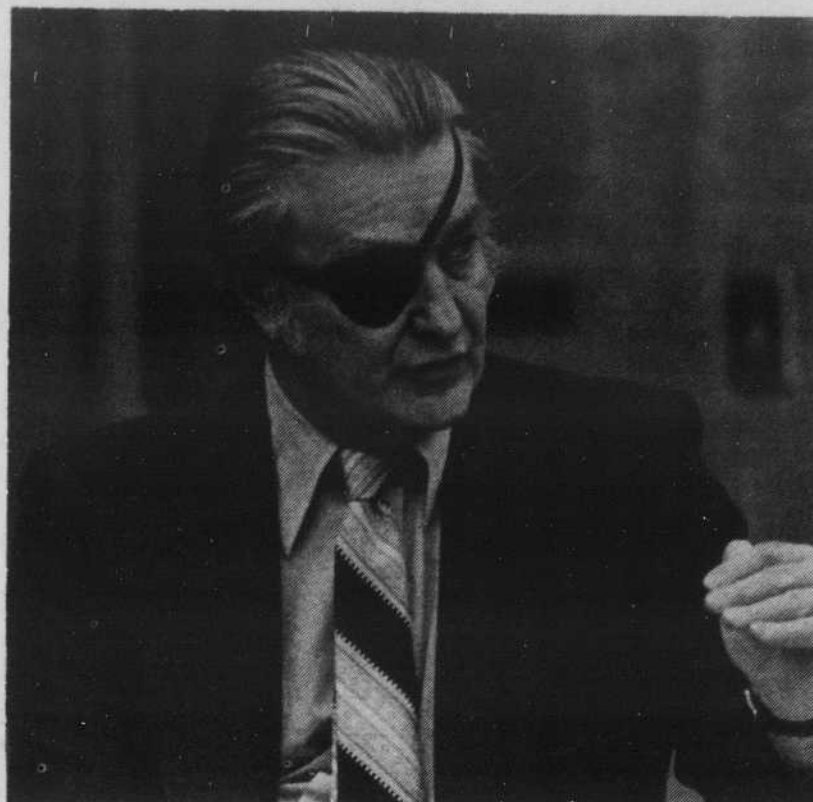


Photo by David Corey

University Provost Richard Hill

Unnoticed maintenance crews attend to University's image

The University Physical Plant crew expects students to ignore them.

"As long as we're doing our job, you never hear about us," says plant director Harold Babcock.

The plant oversees garbage removal, street repair, intra-campus mail delivery, campus maintenance and prepares buildings for registration and special displays.

"We think we're the most important part of the University," Babcock says. "It would be pretty damn hard for it to function without the services of the physical plant."

Underneath Babcock, nine crews work to improve the University's physical image, keeping an eye on electricity, painting, auto repair, carpentry, plumbing, heating and ventilation, labor, grounds and the power plant.

The maintenance crew maintains campus grounds, does design and construction work, and provides custodial service. The painting department upholsters, paints, and designs. A separate power plant generates most campus electricity.

Tucked away between the Millrace and the Willamette River, opposite the science building, the plant's biggest landmarks are the huge sawdust piles that border it on the north. The piles,

fuel for the University's heat, sit adjacent to a gigantic metal warehouse, which holds University supplies and houses the departments' shops.

The rest of the plant compound consists of the power plant, a collage of twisted pipes that spew forth steam. Physical plant offices are nearby, in curved tin shacks reminiscent of army barracks.

Like every University department, the physical plant experiences financial hardship. Even with a \$4 million budget — the University's largest — the grass couldn't be watered last summer.

"It looked like hell," Babcock says.

Babcock isn't sure what to expect about future budget cuts. "We laid off over 10 percent of our crew two years ago," he says. "We're scraping bottom now."

Only a few of the plant's some 250 workers, including 51 students, are actually on the payroll. For instance, of 19 carpenters, only four are budgeted by the state. The others depend on University departments to hire them for remodeling and repair work.

"The cuts shouldn't affect maintenance directly," Babcock says. "We're going to do as much straight maintenance as before, but when we don't have remodeling or rehabilitation work to do, that work won't get done."

Chancellor interviews begin

Semi-finalists for chancellor of the State System of Higher Education are being interviewed in Portland this week by a search committee that may choose finalists as soon as next week.

By Tuesday, the search committee had met with six candidates in Portland, with one or two more still coming, says University Professor Emeritus Charles Duncan, coordinator of the search.

The search committee hopes to forward the names of three to five finalists to the State Board of Higher Education sometime next week, he said.

The board will select the new chancellor after the finalists return to Oregon to meet with board members and administrative, faculty and student representatives from the state's colleges and universities.

None of the semi-finalist candidates are Oregonians or women, Duncan says. One woman who was included in the semi-finalists withdrew, to the disappointment of the search committee, he says.

The search is "going beautifully" according to schedule, Duncan says, which means the board should be able to choose the chancellor by the March 1 deadline set at the beginning of the search.

Chancellor Roy Lieuallen retires June 3 after 20 years as chancellor of the state system.

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