

Furloughs reconsidered

Board wants deeper cuts in higher ed's budget

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

A faculty furlough and \$3.6 million in program reductions were identified by the State Board of Higher Education Friday as two ways to deal with higher education's share of the Legislature's latest budget cuts.

Higher education must slice another \$10.2 million from its budget this biennium, according to action taken by the Ways and Means education sub-committee.

Chancellor Roy Lieuallen told the board during its monthly meeting, held at the University,

that the higher education cut appears to be final. The sub-committee is not expected to make further changes in its budget report, he said. The report already has been revised several times.

Although the faculty furlough had earlier been rejected by the sub-committee, legislators later resurrected the option as a "short-term response" to a portion of the deficit.

Lieuallen reluctantly proposed the furlough to avoid "hastily-conceived decisions" about additional program cuts or the termination of faculty members and classified staff on short notice.

Lieuallen proposed that the faculty furlough account for \$5.5 million of the budget cut, while acknowledging that any reduction in faculty salaries "inevitably will tend to cause the system's most able people to be attracted to employment elsewhere.

"The conclusion I've drawn here is we're caught between two undesirable choices," he said. But Lieuallen pointed out 80 percent of higher education's budget goes for personnel costs. That means either terminating people or reducing

their salaries, he said.

The salary reductions could be achieved by a short-term furlough, by postponing scheduled salary increases, or by foregoing the scheduled 1982-83 salary increases altogether.

The board agreed that Lieuallen and his staff should proceed on assumptions of a faculty furlough and \$3.6 million in program cuts. The number of program reductions identified actually will be 25 percent more than \$3.6 million to allow the board some flexibility in choosing cuts.

The legislative "budget notes" call for faculty involvement in discussions of a possible furlough, and Lieuallen said faculty groups will be included in the decision.

The budget notes also indicate the sub-committee believes it would be "unrealistic" to abandon the tuition surcharge in 1982-83, although the state system staff still must identify the "general" impact of such a move, Lieuallen said.

A special board meeting will be put off until March 11 in Portland to allow as much time as possible to put further program reductions into place.

Debate team to compete in national meet

National tournament berths for the University are few and far between but the University Forensics team has qualified for the National Forensics tournament at the University of Minnesota, April 13 - 15.

The debate team took five firsts in 10 events at the Northwest Regional Speech Tournament at Portland Community College. Fourteen colleges from the Northwest region participated.

The University will try to send the entire team to the national competition, but if the money isn't there, then at least the five first-place finishers will go, said David Frank, director of the forensics program.

According to Frank, the University team captured more awards than any other school.

University team members placed as follows:

- Extemporaneous**
First - Tom Peters, Fourth - Mike Surimine
- Prose**
First - Rick Poulin, Fourth - Lowell Axtman
- Rhetorical Criticism**
First - Chris Miller
- Informative**
First - Lowell Axtman
- Duo-Interpretation**
First - Rick Poulin, Lowell Axtman
- Dramatic**
Second - Rick Poulin
- Impromptu**
Third - Greg Miller

Letter writing drive sets 800 letter goal

Eight hundred letters.

It may take all week, but two student government groups hope to convince University students to send that many letters to their congressional representatives regarding Pres. Ronald Reagan's proposed financial aid cuts.

Reagan has suggested that 1982-83 financial aid levels provide \$141.5 million less than Congress approved in December, and more than \$590 million less than was available in 1981-82.

ASUO and SUAB members selected 800 as the goal of a letter-writing campaign that will feature a resource table in the EMU this week.

"That's a lot of letters, but I think it's a realistic goal," says Dave Berns, ASUO legislative coordinator.

Berns and his colleagues will try to encourage students to write to Oregon's senators, Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, and Bob Packwood, R-Oregon, in addition to their home district congressional representatives.

At the table, students will be given everything they need to get letters in the mail, including postage, pens, paper, a sample letter, addresses and a financial aid fact sheet.

The ASUO also is planning a Financial Aid Forum March 11 that will present opposing viewpoints on Reagan's financial aid cuts and the impact of the cuts on University students. The Emerald will publish a daily tally of letters written.

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Monday, March 1, 7:30 pm, EMU Forum
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Tuesday, March 2
8 p.m. EMU Ballroom

Tickets at the door
\$3.00 UO Students \$3.50 General Public