

Higher-ed budget still uncertain

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

SALEM — A legislative subcommittee met in a second work session Thursday afternoon to hash out funding proposals for sections of the State System of Higher Education's general budget.

The education subcommittee discussed questions they had about freezing tuition, and a \$4 million economic development fund targeted mainly at the state's public universities.

Several items of business, including discussion of academic staff salaries and the Environmental Law Clinic, were left for yet another work session scheduled Monday afternoon. A final recommendation for the budget proposal is not likely to come until later next week, said subcommittee chair Wayne Fawbush, D-Hood River.

The subcommittee discussed a system-wide freeze of tuition at 1982-83 levels. Fawbush asked Chancellor Bud Davis "how much of a disaster" not freezing tuition would be.

The proposal, which would take nearly

\$20.6 million from the state's general fund, would cost each student an estimated \$180 more per year, a 16 percent increase.

The tuition freeze is the number one priority on the state system's 12-point program improvement list.

Perhaps the biggest item of concern for the Ways and Means subcommittee was the economic development budget item. The proposal, which was included in Gov. Vic Atiyeh's budget proposal, would allocate just over \$4 million for engineering and computer science programs at the University, Oregon State University and Portland State University, as well as the University's cell biology program.

Part of the money, \$2.7 million, is from new revenues, and is targeted directly for higher education. The other \$1.3 million comes out of an Educational Coordinating Commission fund of \$2 million.

One of the problems the subcommittee saw was in planning for the years after this biennium.

"If (the legislature is) going to have to pick up those funds, it makes me a little leery," said Fawbush.

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Moseley says, and that's not the message the United States should be sending.

Arms parity should be based on deterrence, and deterrence capabilities already have been achieved by both sides, Moseley says.

"Deterrence as presently conceived says, 'If you attack us we will wipe out your cities,'" he says.

"Two Trident submarines can wipe out something like 50 percent of the Russian population and 80 percent of their manufacturing capability — two Trident submarines, and we've got I don't know how many."

The University's arms control group is far from unique. The literature of most national anti-nuclear groups indicates that substantial numbers of academicians have joined the movement. Smaller faculty groups, like the University's, are forming on campuses all over the country.

The formation of the dedicated arms control groups corresponds to a growing feeling that the probability of a nuclear exchange is increasing.

Scientists like Soper, Moseley and Novick say they feel a responsibility to become involved because they may have a

better understanding of the consequences of a nuclear exchange. They can also understand the logistics involved in space-age nuclear weapons technology.

"When Reagan comes out with a speech saying that we can develop space-based weapons to shoot down missiles, a person without real scientific background has no reason to doubt that," Moseley says.

"I think scientists have a responsibility — if they believe that it's technologically not going to be feasible or very unlikely to be feasible — to speak out," he says.

Some scientists, particularly physicists, even feel a certain amount of "communal responsibility" for the arms dilemma, Moseley says.

"Part of it probably is that physicists were involved in the initial development of nuclear weapons," he says.

Whatever the reason, the spirit of grassroots support continues to grow for a halt to the arms race — both inside academic circles and out.

"We're doing one particular thing that ought to be done within a University — providing an educational base," Soper says.

But there's plenty of room for more involvement, he concludes.

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