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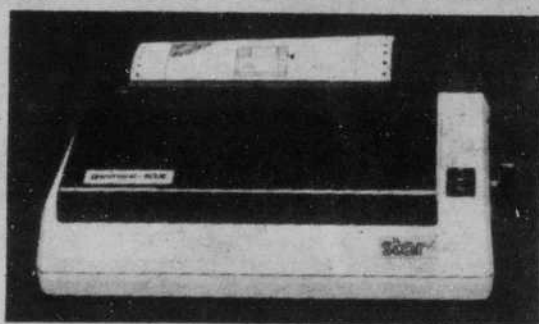
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Budget figures 'misleading'

Administrators say University will still feel pinch

By Sandy Johnstone
 Of the Emerald

University Pres. Paul Olum becomes agitated when he talks about the University's budget.

The University is the most underfunded university of its quality in the nation, he tells the group, just as he's told a dozen other groups during the past few years. The next University budget is not going to make Olum change his speech either.

In June, the Legislature approved a \$1.26 billion budget for the State System of Higher Education for the 1983-85 biennium, an overall increase of 17 percent, but still 3 percent less than the figure in Gov. Vic Atiyeh's recommendation. The University's portion for 1983-84 comes to \$68.4 million, a 9.8 percent increase over 1982-83.

But the percentage increase is misleading, says Ralph Sunderland, the University's budget director.

While the University did receive more money, the funding is tied up in prior commitments that were not funded in the past biennium.

"The University has not increased its operating level. It has decreased," he says.

So Olum doesn't smile when discussing budget adjustments made during summer.

One system-wide cut the Legislature made in higher education slices \$479,800 from the University budget while projected enrollment adjustments will clip \$760,442. In addition, about \$735,900 in cuts must be made to cover cuts in the 1982-83 budget.

No firm decisions have yet been made about where the money will come from.

"We are approaching it by waiting," says Sunderland. "We feel there is sufficient reason to wait for enrollment figures."

"It's a mistake to make budget reductions if we feel the enrollment is shifting and changing," he says. "We don't want to reduce a program where there will be an enrollment bulge."

A lot of time has been spent recruiting students, says Sunderland. It is important they be able to get the classes they want.

Tentatively, the cuts are expected to be made in three areas.

About \$500,000 will be saved through personnel reductions, coming mostly from not hiring replacements for faculty on sabbatical, those who quit or those who retire.

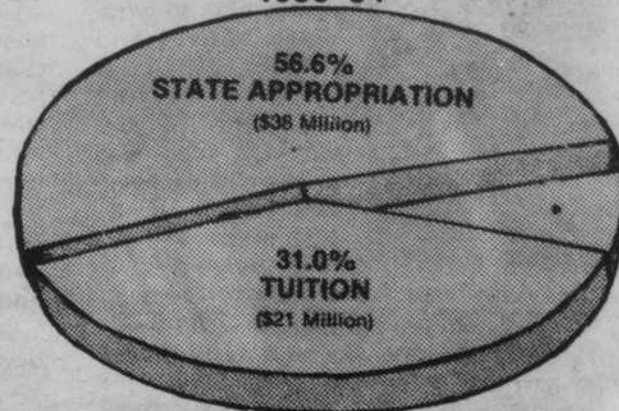
About \$750,000 will be realized from doing without planned remodeling and equipment buying. About \$500,000 will be absorbed through no increases to University departments to cover inflation costs.

Sunderland says these figures are estimates — "no one but me will recognize them."

Savings will also be made in other areas around the University by keeping alert for chances to milk a dollar here, scrape a dollar there.

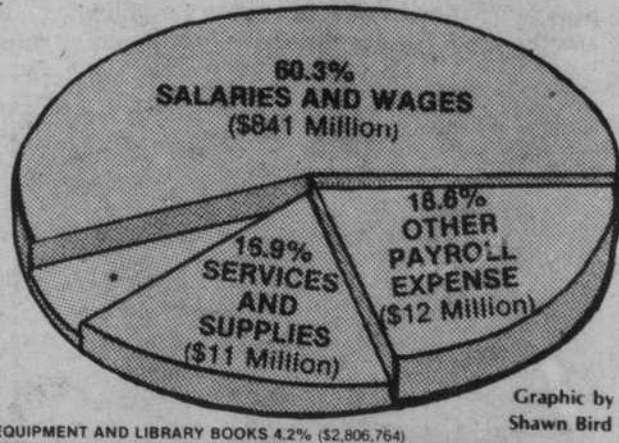
"We will save money every place we can," says Sunderland. "Anytime I see the chance to save

CURRENT GENERAL FUND BUDGETED INCOME (\$68 Million) 1983-84



*OTHER 12.4% (\$8.46 Million)

CURRENT GENERAL FUND BUDGETED EXPENSE (\$68 Million) 1983-84



Graphic by Shawn Bird

money, I discuss it with the president to see if he wants to do it."

Provost Dick Hill is optimistic that the cuts will not affect student instruction.

"The cuts will not have a devastating impact on academic programs," says Hill.

Both Hill and Olum are quick to point to the good things in the budget.

The good news for students is a tuition freeze at last year's levels. However, fees will increase \$27.50, bringing the total for in-state tuition to \$477.50.

Money was also allotted for specific programs within the realm of economic development which will be disbursed to the computer science department and the cell biology lab. (See related stories on pages 10 and 11.)

More money was also allotted for the libraries in the State System.

"There was some good news," admits Hill.

But not enough of it to bring a smile to Olum's face.

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