

Board backs tuition freeze

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

The State Board of Higher Education voted 7-2 Friday to continue the tuition freeze at Oregon state colleges and universities through the 1985-86 and 1986-87 academic years.

Before the freeze is extended, however, it must be approved — along with the entire higher education budget — by the state Legislature.

Budget officers with the state's higher education department had recommended to the board that tuition rates for all student categories be increased by three percent, excluding resident graduate, medical, dental and veterinary students.

According to the staff report, maintaining the freeze through 1987 would cost the state \$10 million.

At the board's Friday meeting, Oregon Student Lobby Executive Director Sherry Oeser said, "We're not asking for another \$25 million to get (tuition rates) back down to the Western states average — we're just asking to hold the line for another two years."

In an earlier letter to the board, Oeser pointed out that Oregon's tuition levels were the highest in the West even with the current freeze. She also reminded the board of the state system's 1983-87 Strategic Plan which calls for a tuition freeze until tuition rates are comparable to other western states.

Student board member Linda Walling said that the plan could lose its credibility unless the state makes progress toward that goal.

Oeser said the OSB could approve an increase in tuition rates if it knew that financial aid policies were in line with current demands. "Federal financial aid has decreased 20 percent in the last three years," Oeser said. "Next fiscal year's federal aid won't cover student needs."

Walling reminded the board that not all students are eligible for financial aid. "We must attempt to keep costs down for all students," she said.

Loren Wyss, who voted against the freeze, said he favored the three percent increase as an approach to dealing realistically with socio-economic issues.

"I think it's a case of 'pay me now or pay me later,'" Wyss said in support of the increase. "I think we'll see an increase in all (living) expenses

— food, housing, etc. — over three percent in the next few years."

The board amended the staff report and approved extending the freeze while supporting another recommendation that post-baccalaureate students be assessed fees in correlation with the level of each course or group of courses taken.

As a result, post-baccalaureate students enrolled in undergraduate-level courses would pay undergraduate fees beginning in 1985-86.

The new post-baccalaureate fee policy would, if implemented, mean a potential 1985-87 revenue loss of just more than \$1 million, according to the staff report.

The board also approved Chancellor Bud Davis' tentative recommendations for priority ranking of 1985-87 capital construction requests. Topping the list was a request for \$6 million to remove access barriers for the handicapped at four institutions, including the University.

Board member Ed Harms of Springfield, who chairs the board's finance committee, said that the request's main objective was to make all programs accessible — not necessarily all facilities. Harms also noted a "catch-22" type of situation with regard to federal funding.

"I wish that the federal government had helped fund the project," Harms said. "But they control financial aid, grants and the like, and we may lose those if we don't spend the money to modify our buildings."

The first phase of additions and alterations to the University architecture and allied arts complex, which had been the top priority, was dropped to eleventh on the list. This disturbed Bill Gilland, architecture school dean, who asked the board to restore the project to its former position for the 1985-87 biennium.

"I've been on campus since 1969... and I've constantly found facilities problems," Gilland said. He said that in 1981 a visiting certification team called the architecture and allied arts facilities "a disgrace to any professional program and an embarrassment to the University."

Gilland cited safety concerns, the state fire marshal's complaints of overcrowding, and leaky roofs that damaged or destroyed student projects as major difficulties for architecture students and staff.

"It's tragic, not having a school of architecture and allied arts in facilities which are an example of the school's excellence," Gilland said.

Academic minors pushed

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

University Pres. Paul Olum asked the State Board of Higher Education last week for nearly \$1.1 million to support a program for academic minors in the University's professional fields, arts and sciences.

"We want to continue to build a total institution — it's important to us and our students to maintain strong liberal arts and professional programs, as well as programs in the humanities," Olum began his proposal.

Olum's request to the board topped a list of 15 University program improvement proposals totaling about \$4.1 million.

The board met Thursday night and Friday in the EMU to review and act upon staff

recommendations for a proposed 1985-87 higher education budget totaling \$162.2 million.

Olum and his colleagues from Oregon's eight state colleges and universities brought \$20.3 million worth of program improvement requests to the board.

The minors-program request calls for about \$541,000 per academic year through 1986-87. That sum would provide for the equivalent of 13 full-time instructors, 5.6 graduate assistants and 4.5 classified staff.

According to Olum's proposal, enrollments over the past decade have risen in business administration and computer science but declined in other professional areas and in some arts and sciences programs. About 10 percent of University

baccalaureate graduates earn double degrees, the proposal stated.

"(Minor programs) make possible both broad liberal education and professional training without greatly increasing the time required to graduate," the proposal read.

"The existence of minors will assist students in focusing their academic work, and students will find job placement easier because recruiters are attracted to graduates with such preparation.

"By having a wide range of minors, students can, say, major in East Asian Studies and minor in business," Olum explained.

Earlier, Olum told the board that the University has made a

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