

Board approves fund for American studies

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Department of Higher Education will ask Gov. Vic Atiyeh and the 1985 Legislature for \$641 million to support state colleges and universities during the 1985-87 biennium.

The State Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the request Friday at

Portland State University. The governor will consider the request before submitting his budget to the Legislature in January.

The budget request represents a \$200 million increase over the 1983-85 amount of state funding for higher education.

The board also unanimously approved creation of a University undergraduate degree pro-

gram in American Studies, effective fall term in 1985. The interdisciplinary program will consist of studies in American history combined with American literature, art, music and social sciences.

The proposed budget includes a provision for continuation of a tuition freeze at Oregon's eight colleges and universities through the

1986-87 school year. The 1983 Legislature appropriated \$20.6 million to freeze tuition rates at 1982-83 levels through the 1983-85 biennium.

The board's 1983-87 Strategic Plan calls for freezing Oregon tuition rates until they are in line with those at other Western colleges and universities.

The board also requested \$54.8 million for faculty salary increases, at an average of 11.5 percent per academic year. The salary increase is geared toward bringing Oregon college and university faculty salaries in line with those at similar institutions.

Oregon's economic growth, particularly in the area of high technology, also was considered by higher education staff and the board.

The proposed budget includes a request for \$17.6 million to bolster related programs. The University's share is \$4.6 million, for programs in biotechnology, high energy physics, polymer science and geothermal research.

Approximately \$385,200 was approved for University studies in international business.

The University honors college, the Center for the Humanities and the Labor Education and Research Center would benefit from a proposed \$460,266 allocation approved by the board. The amount was part of a \$2.5 million allocation for program improvement requests by individual institutions.

The University's new American Studies program has a proposed budget of \$127,000 for the 1985-87 biennium. The budget includes provisions for

one full-time and one part-time faculty member and one part-time secretary.

University Pres. Paul Olum asked the board to approve creation of the degree program in American Studies when he presented University program requests to the body at its June meeting. Olum said Saturday that he was "very excited" about implementation of the new program.

"It's something we should have had here before this," Olum said. "We have all the right people to teach it — it's a natural for the University." Olum also said that board response to the American Studies proposal was "extremely positive."

Degree candidates would be required to complete all University requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree, as well as a 45-credit major in American Studies with a 2.25 grade point average.

Requirements of the major include completion of a three-course, nine-hour sequence in Introduction to American Studies, and 30 hours (21 upper-division) of history, literature, arts and letters and social sciences. A three-hour senior seminar and a senior thesis also would be required.

Oregon State University currently is the only public college or university in the state to offer an American Studies program. The program, offered through OSU's College of Liberal Arts, graduates four to eight students a year. American Studies programs also are offered at Willamette University in Salem and at Reed and Warner Pacific colleges in Portland.

Kesey: Travel policy 'overdue'

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

Ken Kesey had mixed feelings about the State Board of Higher Education's unanimous approval Friday of new regulations governing travel by Oregon colleges and universities.

"I'm glad — but it's been long overdue," said the noted author regarding the board's action.

Kesey spoke as a bereaved parent; his son, Jed, and fellow University wrestler Lorenzo West of Portland were killed in

January when a wrestling team van skidded off an icy highway in southeastern Washington.

The senior Kesey began calling for more strict policies concerning school-related travel immediately after the tragedy.

In April, he suggested to a Senate advisory committee on educational travel a number of ways to improve safety on school trips. Those suggestions were included in the policy proposal the higher education board adopted Friday.

The new policy states that the board is "committed to taking every practical step which will result in institutions providing safe vehicular transportation for faculty, staff and students traveling on institution-approved business."

Under the new regulation, all vehicles used for school-related travel must be equipped with seat belts for each passenger, a first aid kit, an emergency reflector kit, flares, an ice scraper, a flashlight, service station credit cards, accident reporting blanks and instructions for handling emergencies.

Institutions also must provide for regular vehicle inspections; maintenance; safety equipment; pre-travel planning, including equipment checks; and the fil-

ing of trip itineraries.

Schools must keep tabs on the training and performance of drivers, as well as the physical qualifications of drivers and the review of each driver's license.

In addition, the board declared that no person who has been convicted of a major traffic offense during the past three years will be permitted to drive vehicles carrying passengers on school-related business.

The board directed the presidents of Oregon's eight state colleges and universities to adopt institution rules as soon as possible and no later than Nov. 1.

"It's too bad people wait for some disaster before making regulations," Kesey commented. "If we can act before it happens, that's better than waiting."

Kesey has written letters to Sen. Mark Hatfield and other leaders questioning the number of dollars allocated for safety in schools as opposed to the amount of funds spent on national defense. "To me, both issues relate directly to our children and their welfare," he said.

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Ken Kesey

Alcohol ban continues at University athletic events

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

The temporary rule banning alcoholic beverages from University athletic events was made permanent last week.

The rule, which also bans glass containers, cans, weapons and fireworks, was first established in August 1983. Public hearings were held on the ruling in November 1983.

The ban on glass and metal containers was instituted as a safety measure, says Steve McBride, events manager for the athletic department.

"There have been bottles thrown onto the field, barely missing the heads of cheerleaders," he says. Maintenance people have been injured by broken glass, he says.

The alcohol ban originated when the University was still considering selling beer and wine at games. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission requires that outside alcohol be banned where alcoholic beverages are sold.

The University later decided not to allow the sale of alcohol at the sports events.

"Most people say (the alcohol ban) has made a difference in the general demeanor of the crowd," says Dan Williams, vice president of administration. "It's had a very positive effect on the crowd."

But a section of the rule, allowing University employees to search people as a condition for entering sports events, has been challenged as unconstitutional by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The University maintains that the searches are voluntary and therefore are not covered by constitutional guarantees against warrantless searches. The ACLU disagrees.

"Our view is that when consent is requested under those circumstances it's coerced and not true consent, and the constitutional violation still stands," says David Fidanque, of the ACLU.

The University has made minor changes in the rule, including a stipulation that no one will be required to wait in line while University employees search other fans. The changes were submitted to the Oregon attorney general's office and have been approved by that



Emerald file photo

Once again this year University football fans will have to consume their booze outside of Autzen stadium.

office.

Fidanque says that ACLU lawyers will study the changes in the rules before the organization takes a stand on the issue.

"I don't know what we're going to do about it," he says. "I think our position will be the same this time."

Meanwhile, McBride says the athletic department needs the revenue that could be gained from selling alcohol and will continue to work to get permission to sell beer and wine.

"It probably won't happen this year," he says.