

Faculty salary increases are essential, Olum says

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Raising faculty salaries is not self-serving, but is necessary to the University's survival, University President Paul Olum told Lane County's state legislators Thursday.

The University's relatively low pay scale for professors is not only causing current faculty to leave, but is hurting the University's ability to attract young teaching talent, Olum said at a noon forum of the Lane County Caucus.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposed higher education budget for 1985-87, a 19.9 percent increase over the present budget, earmarks \$40 million for faculty pay raises. But that still will not bring the University in line with pay scales at comparable institutions, Olum said.

Bud Davis, chancellor of higher education, told the caucus that with a conservative estimate of a 4.7 percent salary increase at other institutions, it would take \$54 million to bring Oregon's state universities up to the level of comparable schools.

"There is no university in the U.S. of our quality that is funded so badly," Olum said.

Although he said that most of the faculty has been patient with the University's salary offerings, many of the best faculty members have received offers of up to twice their current salary from other universities.

The California Institute of Technology recently offered a University physics professor (who currently receives \$48,000 a year) an annual salary of \$80,000, plus the opportunity to

set up a lab to his own specifications, Olum said. That professor turned down the offer, telling Olum he was happy at the University.

But this has not always happened. Olum cited a department head and four law professors who recently left for better paying jobs at other universities.

Loyalty to the University and the ambience of the community have kept many professors here, and so far the rate of attrition is not much worse than normal, he said.

But Olum added that his "nightmare" was that those who have waited for a change in the salary situation will lose patience and begin to leave the University in large numbers.

Faculty members are affected by more than economic self-interest, he said.

"The ability to bring in the best young Ph.D.s to work with is more important to them than the salary they get," he said. "This year, for the first time, we are not able to get the best young people we want."

Though salary increases are the number one priority for higher education, Olum said there are other needs as well, particularly developing high-tech facilities and building a new science complex at the University.

Atiyeh's proposed budget calls for a 19 percent increase (\$79.2 million) in the operating budgets for state colleges and universities, including \$9.7 million to offset inflation.

The budget also includes \$18.7 million from the state's general fund for capital construction, including \$12 million for the science complex.

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The following is a list of area crimes that have been reported to the Eugene Police Department since Feb. 12:

A cassette deck and tools valued at \$82 were stolen from a vehicle parked at East 13th Avenue and Columbia Street between Feb. 10-18.

A walkman-style tape player valued at \$200 was stolen from Condon School between Feb. 11-12.

Scott Bullis, 22, 2345 Patterson St., Eugene, was arrested and charged with menacing and driving under the influence on Feb. 12. Bullis, a University student, also reportedly threatened another student with a knife at the University Inn.

A backpack was stolen from the University's main library on Feb. 14. The backpack and its

contents were valued at \$53.

Human excrement was reported in UI elevators Feb. 14-15.

A distributor cap was stolen from a vehicle parked in the student parking lot at East 15th Avenue and Moss Street. The cap, valued at \$5, was stolen between Feb. 15-17.

A wallet was stolen from the main library on Feb. 16. The wallet and its contents were valued at \$28.

A rock was thrown through a Clark Hall window Sunday. Damage is estimated at \$15.

The tires of a vehicle parked at East 13th Avenue and Agate Street were deflated by an individual involved in a dispute over a parking spot.

Rocks were thrown through the windows of two cars parked

in front of the Newman Center Wednesday. A stereo tape player valued at \$128 was stolen from one car and damage to the vehicle is estimated at \$130. Damage to the other vehicle is estimated at \$87.

Three purses were stolen. The first, valued at \$17, was stolen from an EMU second-floor women's bathroom on Feb. 15. Another, valued at \$65, was stolen on Tuesday from Science II. The third was valued at \$174 and was stolen from Villard Hall on Wednesday.

Bicycle parts valued at \$213 were stolen from various dormitories between Feb. 3-18.

Four bicycles were stolen.

Compiled by
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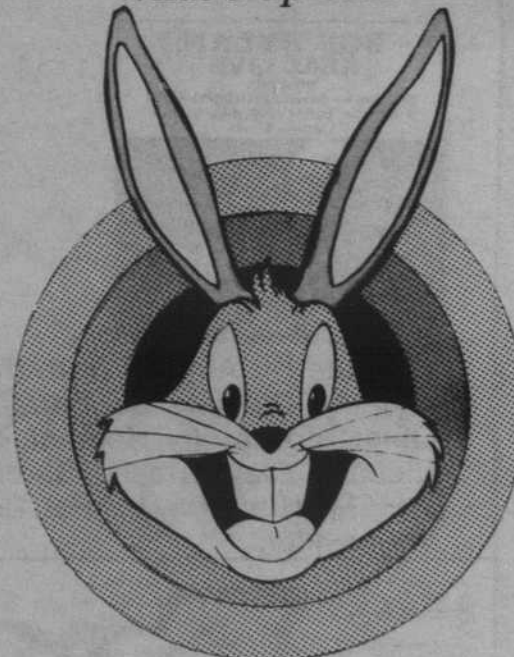
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