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Davis said the merit-based scholarship program was needed to help stop the so-called "Oregon brain drain" trend of the state's best high school scholars choosing out-of-state colleges and universities.

In all, the Scholarship Commission's state budget allocation includes \$18.2 million for need grants to low-income students, \$3 million for outside purchase of educational services, and \$1.1 million for cash-award grants, which are given to students on the basis of academic merit and need.

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt had recommended a \$2 million increase in the Scholarship Commission's budget for the need-based grant program in 1987-89.

The Scholarship Commission had originally requested budget

increases of more than \$20 million.

Lee said the Scholarship Commission's \$1 million increase was obviously less than hoped for, but he is pleased with the attitude of the governor and legislators.

"I can say that this Legislature and governor are very concerned about the fact that existing grant programs do not meet the needs of the students in the state," Lee said. "There is probably more interest in student financial aid in this session than any I've been involved in for 20 years."

Lee said his long-time experience has helped him to put the budgeting process in perspective. "I have seen sessions when we lost money for the Scholarship Commission,"

he said.

In the 1985 legislative session, the Scholarship Commission budget received no major increases or cuts, he said.

The state General Fund allocation represents only a portion of all financial aid money handled by the Scholarship Commission. The majority of financial aid comes from federal grant and loan programs.

Three other sources of financial aid for college students are currently being considered in the Oregon Legislature.

The state Treasury Department has proposed a new loan program, in which the Scholarship Commission would guarantee the loans with money from the sale of revenue bonds. The loan program would allow students to borrow up to

\$40,000.

The new loan program would not have need-test restrictions.

"The intent is to provide access to loans for middle-income families sending their sons or daughters to high-cost institutions," Lee said.

Another bill, proposed by House Speaker Vera Katz and Senate President John Kitzhaber, would provide grants

for students who become school teachers in Oregon.

Another proposal, House Bill 2767, would provide a space on the income-tax refund form where taxpayers could check-off a contribution to the Scholarship Commission.

All three proposals are still up for consideration, Lee said, but none have been approved to date.

Strike Continued from Page 1

reporters to discuss the contract talks. The three EEA as described by the EEA as "experienced bargainers," attended the sessions in order to advise the union on ways to break through the current stalemate.

The teachers agreed that the school district needs to focus on "package bargaining," rather than bargaining issue by issue. Springfield teacher Fred Willis said that mediator John Vale began Saturday's talks by emphasizing the need for package bargaining.

"There is no way with six items still out there that you can negotiate them one at a time... by 1:30 a.m. (Sunday), the only thing that had been discussed was insurance," Willis said.

The contract items Willis referred to include salary, insurance, early retirement, and several "language issues."

Springfield teacher Robbin Spraitz said the financial issues are emphasized to the public but language issues are extremely important to teachers.

"I think it is important that whenever we look at teacher contract negotiations, the only thing that's being considered is the financial aspects. That is a factor but in this contract it is

not the only factor," she said.

When contract broke off after 22 hours Monday, district negotiator Steve Goldschmidt indicated that the two sides were in agreement in virtually all areas except financial questions.

EEA spokeswoman Shari Forbes Thomas said the district has not addressed non-monetary issues.

"The district has refused continually to address any of those non-monetary issues. They ignore about five issues that are really important to teachers," Thomas said.

Thomas said these issues include, "language issues," part-time seniority, a 10 minute extension of elementary teacher's preparation time and the right to representation and evaluation procedures.

The union has been offering comprehensive package proposals to the district, Thomas said, but the district's offers have focused on the issues "that they're interested in... salary, insurance, and transfer and vacancy."

Bargaining teams met for a total of 36 hours over the weekend. Contract negotiations are tentatively scheduled to resume Wednesday.

Survey

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blem rather than a societal problem."

The pollsters also asked people if they agreed with the all-woman policy. A total of 67.1 percent agreed with the policy, 25.2 percent disagreed, and 6.25 percent declined to answer.

However, a breakdown showed 76.5 percent of the women agreed with the policy as opposed to 55.7 percent of men surveyed. Meehan said some of the men who opposed the policy said it was "automatically sexist;" however, this number does not really disturb her.

"I am encouraged that a majority want the program as it is," she said, citing a lack of publicity as partly responsible for people not understanding the reasoning behind the all-woman policy.

"People must realize it is rape prevention, not just convenience," she said.

The survey also asked people to respond to questions of Saferide funding. Forty-seven percent believed the project was funded by incidental fees, 37 percent believed it was funded by fundraising and donations

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
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