

Legislature should rescue higher ed

Vice Provost Paul Holbo has said the changes are of "pretty substantial dimensions."

That sounds like an understatement.

In order for the University to pay for across-the-board faculty pay increases, almost \$2 million will need to be slashed from the budget.

Tentative changes for the University include merging six academic departments into three, shutting down three departments and eliminating 40 to 60 faculty members through attrition and layoffs. It's also possible the library budget and student counseling services may be cut.

It is unfortunate the University must be placed in the position of making significant changes, reorganizations, mergers and cuts. But it is understandable when one considers the need to raise faculty salaries to anywhere near a competitive level.

The University is expected to announce its budget plans Thursday after a series of private meetings between campus officials and their deans.

Moreover, these changes are coming at the request of Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, who recommended the University and other state system of higher education campuses work out a budget reallocation financing a 2 percent raise for faculty through program cutbacks.

And this is where the Legislature fits in.

The University's announcements are coming before the Legislature acts on a bill breaking or modifying the state's spending limit. University officials are hoping the Legislature will go beyond this self-imposed spending limit and approve funding for half the salary increases.

And indeed they should break the limit for education.

University deans gave up a long weekend vacation to consult with faculty members over the proposed cuts. They are to report their findings to the provost's office by noon today.

Administrators will then meet this afternoon with the Faculty Advisory Council, put finishing touches on the budget tomorrow, and release it Thursday.

If University officials had any indication from the Legislature that higher education were receiving more money, they wouldn't be forced to make any of these sacrifices for salary increases.

It's the Legislature's turn to take some responsibility for higher education. We can't afford the continual cuts to which we're subjected because members of the Legislature have forgotten the importance of education. At least that's the message we've repeatedly been sent.



Accusations of unresponsiveness unfair

Members of the gay and lesbian community have a right to be concerned about homophobia, but neglecting to inform the campus media about recent events is not the way to fight it.

The University campus has always been portrayed as a liberal environment, a place where people of all kinds can freely express their opinions and ideas. Lately, however, this hasn't been the case. Harassment of gays and lesbians is on an alarming rise, with threats of violence and discrimination being regularly reported.

The thuggery reached a low point during this year's ASUO executive campaign, when presidential candidate Tim Hughes — an openly gay student — and his campaign workers reported several verbal and physical assaults.

On Friday, Hughes met with University President Paul Olum to discuss the increase in violence directed toward the gay and lesbian community.

However, when several members of the local media were contacted about the meeting, the Oregon Daily Emerald was not one of them.

We deplore discrimination, bigotry and violence of any kind, and we applaud recent efforts by Hughes and other gay and lesbian students to increase the awareness of higher education officials, faculty members and students to the problem. But in the weeks since the election, we have been accused several times of being generally unresponsive to the violence directed at the gay community. In addition, a recent letter said we "go so far as to attack the legitimate concerns of gays and lesbians."

This year, we have tried to be responsive to the gay community's needs, as we have tried to be responsive to the needs of any other minority group on campus.

We reported on the attacks against Hughes and his running mate Maureen Kirk, and we reported on the events after the election. And we will continue to cover these events as long as they happen.

If we haven't been supportive of minority students' rights, then take us to task. After all, that is what our Letters section is for. Give us examples and include us in discussions. Excluding any portion of the media only restricts debate and communication.

Letters

Too facile

I can't agree with the recent letters defending the graffiti which appeared during Gay and Lesbian Pride Week.

It's simply too facile to say there's no other way the point could have been gotten across. What about giant posters; what about messages in brightly colored chalk, like those done by the animal rights groups the same day as the Pride rally? Like the graffiti, they could have been eye-catching and made people think, which was presumably the purpose. And, better, they would have made people think about how gays are oppressed rather than how the campus had been defaced.

Especially where public property is concerned, no one has the right to do damage, and for the very reason that it does belong to all of us. What right have I to spray-paint a sidewalk or to slice an article out of a journal in the library? Yes, the sidewalk can be sandblasted or the journal replaced, but it costs money. It's selfish to make everyone else pay for my

self-indulgence — and it's especially uncool on a campus that is already strapped. I know my Gay and Lesbian friends support the installation of more lights around campus, which is an expensive project. It seems logical to assume this money has to come from the same budget used to sandblast graffiti away.

One final point: I don't think we're going to win our liberation by giving offense. It's by shaming, not by inflaming people that we will finally end our oppression.

Michael Beneke
Honors College

Heterophobic

I sure hope that the last three pro-gay letters to the Emerald haven't been typical of the local gay community.

First of all, we had Stephen Pierson's tirade berating the ODE for giving front-page coverage to an original, interesting scene of animal-rights activists chained together in protest in-

stead of a boring snapshot of a rally (ODE, May 9) — because, he essentially says, "my cause is more important than your cause." Or is that "my dad can whip your dad ...?"

Then we have Scott Shoup's contribution (ODE, May 18), accusing the Emerald of bigotry because it does not contribute money, congressional lobby support, or "fair and accurate" articles. Conveniently he neglects to back up the latter with examples. Of course, Scott might just be miffed at having been denied the Emerald endorsement this year for IFC (which isn't surprising considering last year he irresponsibly threatened to vote against the Emerald's funding).

Finally, Bryce Ryan joins the throng (ODE, May 19), manufacturing and then "detecting an emphasis" on pro-gay graffiti in the Emerald's editorial section. Come on, get real. You want people to take you seriously, or do you want to get mentally lumped together with high-school freshmen spraying "Guns N' Roses" on garbage dumpsters?

So: What do these guys

want? Equality or special privileges? Special media attention, license to ideologically defecate on our sidewalks? Don't get me wrong, I'm not categorizing the whole gay community in these unflattering terms. But a lot of people are, because all they see are the heterophobic babies.

Finn John
Political science/English

Dirty windows

There are a lot of things said this term about the Physical Plant and about whether the custodians do enough work or not.

That might be true, maybe not. I think that even the custodians and other low-level employees at the Physical Plant suffer as much from what is going on there at the higher level as do the rest of us. So, here is something else that needs to be brought up which may, if it happens, affect all faculties and especially the office employees

and staff all over the University.

Your office and building windows may not get washed this summer because of the lack of proper budget. Can you imagine leaving some windows for instance in PLC or Oregon Hall or Lawrence Hall or any other building unwashed for another year? Those windows get clean only once a year to begin with and believe me even once a year is not enough. They must get washed every year.

The reason for this delay is due to a "hole" in the budget of the Physical Plant. They say that there is not enough money to fund a yearly window washing crew this summer.

I would like for all those concerned faculty and staff to call the Physical Plant and make sure that they once again get clean windows this summer. Otherwise, I hope you enjoy dirtier windows this coming year.

Ibraheem Wahab
Eugene

Tuesday, May 30, 1989