

Relief sought for funding crunch

By Jeremy Kemp
Emerald Contributor

Gaining admission to the University has become tougher in the last few years, but getting into overcrowded classes can be even tougher — and paying for a four-year education may be harder yet. What is the problem?

The state Board of Higher Education has an answer to that question: lack of funding.

In the last two years, Oregon has increased its higher education spending by only 7 percent, while Washington, Idaho and Nevada have increased theirs by at least 14 percent.

Oregon is behind 37 other states in higher education budget increases.

Money from the state Legislature, constituting roughly 34 percent of the higher education budget, has barely matched inflation in the past few years.

Tuition rates, on the other hand, have outpaced inflation. Student tuition and fees contribute about 13 percent of the budget; they rose 8.25 percent in 1988 and 9.95 percent in 1989.

Who are the people trying to solve the funding problems? The Oregon State Board of Education controls the state's institutions of higher education. Its responsibility includes submitting budget proposals to the governor.

The board comprises two students from Oregon's universities and colleges and nine Oregon residents.

"Most of them are business

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University, state system: a guide to how it all works

Over the course of a school year, students read about the University administration, the Oregon State System of Higher Education, and the state board that oversees their affairs. Here's how they work and what they do.

The University is but one member of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, the group to which all the state's public colleges and universities belong.

Other members are Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande; Oregon Health Sciences University and Portland State University in Portland; Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls; Oregon State University in Corvallis; Southern Oregon State College in Ashland; and Western Oregon State College in Monmouth.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education oversees the system, meets every month except August. It consists of 11 members, all of whom make policies on issues such as college and university budgets and funds, personnel (including presidents), and act on requests for new programs. They also lobby the case for higher education to the governor and Legislature.

Closer to home, the University is run by its own administration. The president, currently Myles Brand, represents the University to the board, the Legislature, and other outside organizations.

Many University organizations work closely with the president and the administration, including the ASUO, the director of affirmative action and the University Senate.

Brand is assisted in his job by four vice-presidents, each of whom administers a different facet of University operation.

The provost, Norman Wessells, is also known as the vice president for academic affairs. The provost is the chief academic officer of the University, and all of the various deans report to him through regular meetings.

Six vice-provosts, with duties ranging from academic affairs to information resources and services, assist Wessells.

The other three vice presidents are in charge of research (John Moseley), administration (Dan Williams) and public affairs and development (Brody Remington, who takes office in early October.)

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