

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

Those figures could easily raise tuition at the University this fall to well over \$700 a term for an in-state undergraduate student, not including incidental or health service fees.

Additionally, Roberts proposed that \$5.8 million be cut from state financial aid and scholarship programs. Student loans, however, come from a self-funded system that will not be affected.

Much uncertainty

Roberts, who will be sworn in as governor next Monday, said exactly how high tuition climbs and how many students are allowed to enroll will depend on future negotiations.

"The chancellor and I are still discussing (tuition increases), because it is the relationship between that tuition and the other cuts that are made in the higher ed system that we will work to find a comfort level for me, for the chancellor, for the Legislature and... for higher education in general," she said.

"If you close — and for heaven's sake that's not what we're proposing — but if you close Eastern (Oregon State College) and Western (Oregon State College) and OIT and Monmouth, you still would not reach that number (of necessary cuts)."

"So I think that tells you, if you would have to close four colleges to reach it, what its impact is on higher education."

Property tax-limiting Measure 5, passed in the Nov. 6 election, will require the state to provide \$633 million more for funding public schools than it would have during 1991-93, shifting dollars away from other state-funded agencies.

The effects of Measure 5 combine with sour revenue forecasts to produce a \$840 mil-

lion gap — a deficit that Roberts' budget cuts must fill.

"We have done some things I don't feel good about," Roberts said. "But we clearly had instructions from the people of this state through Measure 5.

"We took those instructions carefully and clearly... They wanted property tax relief, and they wanted accountability and efficiency in government. We built that in. We've tightened our belts. We've cut back... We flattened the organizations, and we have taken real cuts throughout state government," she said.

"It was a very painful process. One of the ways I can best describe it is, we released these numbers to the legislators... we found them just appalled at what we had done."

Finding a balance

Vice Chancellor Large said that with the Higher Education Board's method of computing the budget targets, colleges and universities will have to cut \$86 million over the next two years.

In order to slice that much from its budget, higher education will have to significantly increase tuition and make program and personnel cuts, Large said.

"What we don't know for sure is where we are going to strike the balance," he said.

If students pay more — 6.7 percent more each year at the state's universities and additional \$200 surcharges each term — almost half of that budget reduction would be met.

Beyond tuition increases, Roberts' proposal of cutting 500 faculty and staff members and administrators out the system would relieve another \$46 million, making up the rest of the budget cut.

"If you cut 500 (employees) out, in order to cut back half of

the \$86 million problem, that would mean we will have to reduce students by about 6,000," Large said.

State-wide enrollment caps would have to be lowered by that number, "because we don't want to end up in a situation where students are having to pay more and get less," he said.

"You may have fewer students and smaller institutions paying more, but we want to at least sustain the current level of quality."

Everyone affected

Roberts emphasized that the recommended personnel cut of 500 people was just that: a recommendation.

"They can choose how to take that cut; we have only given them a target, and they have a lot of flexibility in choosing how that target is made up," she said.

Large said that none of the recommendations, including the faculty and staff cuts, has become firm decisions. "I want to stress that no final decision has been made in this. We haven't reached full agreement with all the people who have a stake in this."

Moreover, higher education does not yet know how much each institution in the system would be cut, Large said.

"We don't intend to cut across the board system-wide, so each will be affected differently," he said. "On the other hand each institution will be affected. And we are asking the presidents to recommend the cuts to the chancellor and to the Board of Higher Education."

Large also said that while discussion of eliminating one or two institutions has arisen, no such move is in the works.

"We think we can work out a better response right now. But



Photo by John Stoops

Mike Marsh, administrator of the State Budget and Management Division, explains the effects of tax-limiting Measure 5 on the state's general fund, which funds one-third of higher education around the state.

if this problem persists into the next biennium, and certainly into the one after that, then those are much more likely scenarios."

As for Oregon's low faculty salaries, Roberts' proposals included no additional funds for salary improvement, aside from a modest increase for all state employees. Measure 5 and revenue shortfalls have eliminated Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's year-old proposal of an additional \$50 million for faculty pay.

Future relief?

Roberts also said she hoped a new revenue source will be found before the 1993-95 biennium. If not, Measure 5 will take even larger chunks of the state's general fund, demanding even larger cuts.

"If we were able to put a measure on the ballot between November of this year and spring, say, May '92, that would give time for implementation... and we would be able to put that money back into restructure in time for the next biennium," she said.

"If it did not get on the ballot 'till November of 1992... we would begin (the next) budget process without being able to have those new revenues. So the timing is very important in terms of not going into the next budget and making these kinds of cuts multiplied times three."

Roberts has proposed a 5 percent sales tax as a new source for state dollars.

By passing Measure 5, Roberts said she believes voters were rejecting a lopsided tax system — one too reliant on property taxes — and that they were also asking for more accountable government spending.

"If that message was, 'Give me efficiency in government,' I think you're going to see we tightened our belts," she said.

"But I think the second part of the message is that when you do property tax relief the way we have done it under Measure 5, we make cuts that are probably not good for Oregon in the long term — or the short term. And I think there will be a discomfort level on the part of many Oregonians.

"Everybody, we felt had to carry their share in this process," Roberts said.

"But there will be advocacy groups and citizens who will look at what we have done and believe there must have been a better way to do it that wouldn't have hurt as many people.

"We tried, and we did everything we could... But there is no question, I think the public in Oregon is going to see some pain. I think they will understand that we have created pain."

GTF

Continued from Page 1

Com said

Now that GTFs may contract for more research work, professors can allot more funds for projects employing graduate students.

Before the contract revisions, professors were limit-

ed in the amount of funds they could spend on research conducted by GTFs.

The revision of the clause acknowledges the practice of combining research grants and funds allotted for GTFs to pay graduate students a more competitive wage, Upham said.

The move, in effect, recognizes the importance of re-

search at the University, Upham said.

Membership in the GTF offers many benefits, La Com said.

"If you're not in the bargaining unit, you're not entitled to salary increases," she said. "And you'll have to buy ASUO health insurance, which is about three times as much as Preferred Health Northwest health insurance," the plan offered by the federation.

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