

LEADERS

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that would push the cost of undergraduate tuition to over \$900 a term.

During the Tuesday press conference, Campbell said higher education should consider making more cuts in administrative areas in order to spare educational programs and to prevent extremely high tuition rates. Only minutes before the news conference, about 400 students rallied on the Capitol's front steps to protest budget cuts and higher tuition proposals.

Campbell, a Republican from Eugene, also questioned how well college and university administrators communicated when deciding on program cuts. "There's some question when you look at the cuts, whether there was any coordination," he said.

Both Campbell and Kitzhaber admitted that higher education, like other state agencies, have few available options in the face of major cuts. Nevertheless, Campbell said the higher education budget may not get its traditional protection from close legislative review this biennium.

"We ought to ask the co-chairs of the Ways and Means (Committee) to take a good look at the higher education budget," he said. "That's something that we seldom do because we don't have the same access to that budget as we do other agencies' budgets."

Campbell said some legislators have suggested the higher education budget not be a "block budget," in which actual spending decisions are determined less by the Legislature and more by the Higher Education Board.

"That (kind of change), of course, would be like starting the third world war," he said. "But I think we're going to look at those things, because we have very serious business when you start talking about the kinds of cuts that are being made."

While Higher Education Chancellor Thomas Bartlett said he welcomes close review by law-



Photo by John Stoops

Senate President John Kitzhaber (left) and House Speaker Larry Campbell speak on the higher education budget at a press conference, Tuesday.

makers, he questioned whether there is enough time in the 150-day legislative session to make thorough decisions about his agency's \$1.1 billion budget, a third of which is funded by the state.

"I think they're absolutely right — that the Legislature needs to and ought to scrutinize our budget very closely," he said. "My one concern is whether there is time to do that. I would hope to have a long, careful review."

But Bartlett said if legislative scrutiny were to become too detailed, such involvement "could paralyze for two years our ability to make adjustments and use our ingenuity and creativity."

Assembly requests new revenue

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Reporter

Faculty and administrators voted unanimously Wednesday afternoon to request replacement revenue from the Legislature to counteract the effects of announced budget cuts at the University as a result of Ballot Measure 5.

Final decisions were made on the budget cuts Monday afternoon. Provost Norman Wessells told the University Assembly.

The faculty subcommittee received "several hundred letters from concerned faculty, students, alumni and other interested parties" voicing concern over the proposed budget cuts. Wessells said in a letter to President Myles Brand dated Feb. 6. However, Wessells added that despite any protests the original budget cuts still stand.

The faculty subcommittee hadn't learned anything new since the cuts were originally proposed which would cause the "fundamental cuts" to be reversed, he said.

Although Brand hopes replacement revenue will become available so these programs can be saved, he remains pessimistic about this taking place.

"My expectation is that no replacement revenue will be found within this biennium and that these cuts are permanent," Brand said. "If this changes we'll go back (retrieve cut programs)."

"My frank opinion is that people in this state are not highly supportive of higher education and that the legislators are, in part, reacting to that," Brand said. "We were given an impossible task by the legislature. We are the sacrificial lambs. We are the scapegoats for the tax system."

Replacement revenues and restoration of the University
Oregon Daily Emerald

budget are imperative. Brand said, adding that higher education could face more trouble in the future. "It could be the worst is yet to come. It's possible there are greater cuts (ahead)," he said.

Although there has been opposition to tuition surcharge — which will raise approximately \$3.5 million — elimination of the proposed surcharge would have dire consequences for the University by further reducing programs.

"If the tuition surcharge is not passed the cuts will double," Brand said. "If that happened I don't know what we'd do. We've already had to cut

programs we shouldn't have even thought about cutting."

The administration decided to retain the 35 tenured faculty whose programs are up for elimination and "look at how remaining faculty can come together to generate new degree programs," Wessells said.

Also, there will also be about a 3.2 to 3.5 percent reduction in the University's salary budget, he said, adding that the deans would be "charged with looking at bottom line figures such as the budgets for GTFs."

"I can't justify the cuts but we're forced into choice given our options and we have very bad options," Brand said.

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By GARY LARSON



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