

# SALEM

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these students," Bunn said. "We have a responsibility to those students to say, 'Are there any alternatives?'"

Despite the questions from the committee Tuesday, Rep. Gilmour told education administrators the Legislature would not "micro-manage" the budgeting process but would trust

them with the "check" that is written to them.

And Bunn said legislators will keep their "fingers off" higher education's budget decisions more than they do with budgets from other state programs.

University President Myles Brand said the committee hearings show that legislators are "trying not to be hostile" but that there are many difficult

problems to be worked out.

Lynn Pinckney, executive director for the Oregon Student Lobby, said she is pleased to see legislators asking important questions of higher education officials, such as Bunn's questions about student enrollment.

Bunn also asked the chairman of the State Board of Higher Education to explain his perception of committee's role in the budgeting process.

"The oversight role of the committee is not clear," Bunn said. In the past, the committee's role has done little more than "rubber stamp" its approval for the higher education budget.

Board Chairman Mark Dodson, said he "welcomes a more collaborative role" between legislators and the higher education system to form policy.

Several other legislators ex-

pressed concerns about the higher education budget proposal.

Rep. Eldon Johnson, R-Medford, said he would like to know "in dollars" what it costs to run the University's law school because, he said, it might be the "right size" to cut.

Gilmour said the committee's criteria for determining which programs should be reduced or eliminated may be different from those used by the higher education.

"We have our own (criteria), and politics enters into it," he said. But he added he would like to leave politics out of the budgeting process as much as possible.

## Senate bill lets relatives halt feeding

SALEM (AP) — Family or friends of someone who is terminally ill and in a coma could order feeding tubes removed with or without the patient's prior consent under a bill approved Tuesday by an Oregon Senate panel.

The bill approved by the Health Insurance and Bio-Ethics Committee would expand upon 1989 legislation that allows a person to sign a statement that they want life-sustaining treatment stopped if later they are in a coma, terminally ill and death is imminent.

The new legislation would allow a person to order doctors to withhold food and water if the person becomes unconscious and unable to communicate due to a terminal condition.

The bill does not specify that the person be near death.

If the patient has not specified what actions should be taken if they enter a coma, SB 494 would allow someone previously designated by the patient to make health care decisions for the patient, including whether feeding should be stopped.

If no one has been designated to make health care decisions for the patient, a court could appoint someone, including a relative or close friend, to do so.

## Correction

Mark Weiger's name was omitted from a list of candidates for ASUO offices that was printed in Tuesday's *Emerald*. Weiger is running for a two-year seat on the EMU Board. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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Wednesday, April 10, 1991