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FUNDING

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spend state system funds on athletic programs comes in the context of Measure 5.

"We as faculty members often don't speak up on budgetary issues," O'Brien said. "We have our students to teach and our own research to conduct."

"But, in these times of financial crisis for the state and the University, times that have resulted in cuts of University programs and increases in student tuition, athletics should not be an area that receives new funding."

Student Senate member Lisa Clark echoed O'Brien's statement

"Students have had a minimum of 22.4 percent tuition increase, the University has lost 200 faculty and staff, and \$5 million worth of programs have been cut," she said. "This is only the first stage of Measure 5.

"However, one department seems unwilling to roll with the changing times. It demands even more money when other departments have cut back substantially," Clark said.

O'Brien, a professor in the sociology department, said both the campus and state chapters of AAUP are opposed to using state system money to support athletic programs instead of educational programs.

The board is scheduled to make a decision on the issue Friday at an 11 a.m. meeting in the EMU Gumwood Room. However, Patricia Gwartney-Gibbs, an associate professor of sociology and member of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, said the board should postpone its decision on the sports bailout until alternatives are thoroughly examined.

"Some campus administrators are calling the sports bailout a "done deal," but faculty and students believe that they are being railroaded into a hasty decision which diverts funds that might otherwise be available for academic programs or tuition reduction," Gwartney-Gibbs said.

"The board and the OSSHE claim that sports bailout funds cannot be redirected to support academic programs or tuition reduction," she said. "After investigating the details of the bailout plan, however, the IFS Executive Council finds no evidence for this claim.

"We urge the board to consider the political consequences, in the state Legislature and with the public, of bailing out multimillion-dollar sports deficits while simultaneously slashing academic programs and levying hefty tuition increases," she said.

Each of the speakers expressed support for student athletes but said athletics are not a primary function of the universities.

"ASUO is supportive of the athletic department's contribution to this campus and the community life," ASUO President Jennifer Bills said. "Thus, we urge the board to explore other alternatives before eliminating or reducing our current programs."

Suggested alternatives include taxing businesses that benefit economically from athletics, including restaurants and hotels, renting out of athletic facilities for concerts and other events; and revision of NCAA requirements.

"It is false to assume that the value of a university's diploma is based on the value of the school's football or basketball team," Bills said.

In a written statement Wednesday, Governor Barbara Roberts announced her opposition to state funding of college athletics.

"While I understand and support the value of Pac-10 and NCAA-level intercollegiate competition to the state system and to Oregon, I cannot support the recommendation to commit university funds to intercollegiate athletics considering Oregon's current fiscal circumstances," she said.

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BOWL

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game on payroll bonuses and travel expenses, even paying for family and friends of department employees to attend the game and accompanying activities

The board knew long ago how the bowl money was spent, said Greg Parker, Oregon State System of Higher Education communications director

"What (the board has) been saving is that you can't go back and undo this, and this is only one program at one university," he said

Dan Williams, University vice president for administration, said the money spent on employees' family and friends was less than \$40,000, and that the bulk of the total money paid for the costs of sending the team and the marching band. He also said the money was never intended to be a cash reward for participating schools.

The fee provides an allowance or budget to reimburse the school for the extra expense of meeting the bowl organizers' expectations of what 'participation' in their event entails," Williams said in a written statement.

"These expectations go considerably beyond players, band, and cheerleaders for the actual game: They include numerous social and other events, often involving spouses and other family members," he said.

Don Anderson, executive director of the Orange County Sports Association, which organizes the Freedom Bowl, said bowl organizers do not tell participants how to spend the money.

"The school gets the flat fee," Anderson said. "They determine how to spend it. There are some things they are asked to do, but it's not a specific allocation in any way."

Williams said in light of Measure 5, the \$40,000 could have been better spent, but that the decision was made before the effects of the budget cuts were known.