

## FINANCIAL AID

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dent aid and the means of allocating it.

Congressman Les AuCoin said one of the new proposals for the act, which is revised every five years, would make Pell Grants an entitlement, meaning all students who qualify for financial aid will get the help they need to go to school "without mortgaging their future."

The Oregon Democrat recently released a statement advocating a 60 percent cut in military spending over the next five years, which would free up \$1.1 trillion for programs at home, including higher education.

Additional funding would be especially welcome to Oregon students because the ax of Measure 5 threatens state financial aid programs. The future of the state-funded Need Grant Program, which benefits about 15,000 Oregon students, is unknown at this time, said Jeffrey Lee, executive director of the State Scholarship Commission.

"The general thought of the State Scholarship Committee is that the Need Grant Program is the number one state-funded program — one of our highest priorities," Lee said.

The committee has been allotted the funds to continue the program for the 1991-92 biennial year and it appears it will have the funds for the 1992-93 year, Lee said.

The cuts, if any, will surface at the beginning of the 1993-95 biennium, he said.

"It's a very real possibility they will cut back on the program," Lee said. It's not yet known whether fewer students will be helped, or whether the number of students currently helped will

receive less aid.

"It's hard for us to make those kind of predictions yet when we have more questions than answers," he said.

When in Washington, Brand voiced support for several senators' proposals to change the way financial aid is allocated, which could ultimately make more aid available.

Presently, students apply for federal grants and loans through their colleges and universities. Students then go to a bank to obtain the loans. The banks take an initiation fee and then sell the loan for a profit to a national organization.

The proposals call for eliminating the bank's role in obtaining direct student loans, which would allow more student aid. Taking the banks "out of the loop" would free up one or two billion dollars that could go back into students' pockets, he said.

Brand said repayment of these loans would be based on future ability to pay and could be paid off over several years.

Another feature in the proposals would allow middle-income students access to low-cost loans under a universal access program, regardless of need.

In a recent report to the campus community, Brand said he attempted to gain the support of Congress for direct loans because "it puts more money in the hands of students, which is critical, especially in these times of higher tuitions."

Brand said he received positive response from congressmen and believes the trip was successful, although Congress isn't due to make any decisions until spring.

## ACTION

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the OSU Board of Directors, the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, the Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors and the Associated Oregon Faculties.

Bills said delay and indecision on the part of the state government is unacceptable.

"Inaction is already causing a loss of faith that will be difficult to repair," she said. "We call upon the legislators to cooperate in the formulation of a tax reform plan that is both fair and adequate."

The state's higher education system lost 500 jobs, 3,000 students and 68 programs in the first phase of Measure 5, Bills said, and stands to lose 5,000 to 10,000 more students during the second phase.

"As Oregon's economy changes, more Oregon citizens will be seeking post-secondary job skills," she said. "The loss of more programs, students, faculty and staff will be harmful to the state far into Oregon's future."

"These cuts represent personal tragedies for hundreds of individuals and economic disaster for the state of Oregon."

Bonnie Staebler, a professor at Western Oregon State College and president of IFS, drew the loudest applause of the afternoon when she spoke about why IFS members recently voted unanimously to call for a special session.

"We do not believe that when Oregonians voted for Measure 5 that they realized it would force a rapid, poorly-coordinated downsizing of the system of higher education," she said. "Yet that is what is happening, and ... with a vengeance."

The short- and long-term economic and cultural results are evident and appalling, she said, as Oregon citizens forgo higher education because they cannot afford it or seek an education in another state.

"How many future teachers, business managers or other community leaders have we already lost in Oregon and how many hopes and dreams for personal growth and enrichment will we lose in the coming years unless each of us begins today to make a difference?" she asked.

Jean Stockard, president of the Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors, spoke about the difficulty the Oregon State System of Higher Education will have regaining lost ground if phase two goes into effect.

"If we destroy key elements of that system it will be very difficult to rebuild it to its present strength, even if replacement revenues were found after a period of only a few years," she said. "We will seriously harm the quality of our state's work force and our ability to attract new industries for years to come if we allow the next phase of cuts ... to occur."

Bills answered a question from an audience member who asked how to convince Oregon voters that replacement revenue is needed.

Bill said she is urging students to speak to their parents and other state residents to let them know how the cuts and tuition increases have affected students.

Norman Wessells, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University, asked that the new Legislature take responsibility by taking a position on the issue.

"Inaction is action," he said. "It's negative action."

Wessells also pointed out that college and university students, through tuition, put more money into state coffers than all state corporate taxes combined.

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## TASK FORCE

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versity's athletics program.

A small ad hoc committee of faculty and students has been formed to work with Brand's executive assistant, Dave Hubin, and Vice President Dan Williams to review the charge of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.

Albany businessman Herbert Aschkenasy has been appointed chairman of the athletic funding task force. He is president of Oregon Freeze Dry.

Among the issues the task force is expected to address are the value of intercollegiate athletics to the campuses, the state and Oregon's economy; the current budget crisis and the need to raise money; the operations of OSSHE's athletic departments, and the potential for further efficiencies within those departments.

## CORRECTION

In an article in Tuesday's *Emerald*, it was reported that the Incidental Fee Committee approved stipends for individual ASUO staff members. However, a lump sum for staff salaries is approved by the IFC.

In an article in Wednesday's *Emerald*, it was reported that

Aschkenasy will release a task force meeting schedule soon, in time to develop a report and recommendations by May 1.

Other people appointed to the task force are Sen. Wayne Fawbush (D-Hood River); Rep. Ray Baum (R-LaGrande); Steven Keller, Oregon Student Lobby; James Pease, Interinstitutional Faculty Senate; Mike Marsh, state budget director, Executive Department; Charles Warren, president, Excalibur Inc. and University Foundation trustee;

Charles Carlbohm, president/CEO, Western Family Foods; Sally Plumley, co-owner, Sizzler Restaurants of Corvallis; John Byrne, Oregon State president; Joseph Cox, Southern Oregon State president; Les Swanson and Britteny Davis, OSBHE members; and Robert Frank, chairman of Oregon State's English department.

ASUO staff member Bobby Lee received a salary of \$125 last year and the salary was raised to \$175 for 1991-92. However, Lee received \$175 last year also.

The *Emerald* regrets the errors.