

Legislators debate tax reform

By Katy Moeller
Oregon Daily Emerald

CORVALLIS — Legislators and public administrators proposed various strategies for finding replacement revenue for the \$1.2 billion state budget shortfall and for building a broader base of support for tax reform at the annual meeting of the Association of Oregon Faculties Saturday.

The meeting, which was at LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus, featured speakers Gov. Barbara Roberts, state Sen. Grattan Kerans, state Sen. Clifford Trow and Norma Paulus, superintendent of public instruction.

Roberts, who was received with a standing ovation, said, "timing is everything" on the issue of tax reform.

"Only when Oregonians understand that the government is changing and that it will give the best value for the dollar that we can do; and only when they clearly understand that Measure 5 will not allow us to pay for critical services, will Oregonians be ready to support tax reform," she said.

Roberts cited results from the latest poll conducted by Associated Oregon Industries as a strong indicator of the lack of understanding among Oregonians about the effects of 1990's Ballot Measure 5.

According to the poll, fewer Oregonians now believe that Oregon needs some type of revenue replacement for school funding than it did last September. The poll also showed that fewer Oregonians believe that Measure 5 hurt state programs and local government.

"Perception is everything in the process we're dealing with," Roberts said.

Roberts said the first responsibility should be balancing the budget, so it will be clear to Oregonians what Measure 5 will do.

Kerans, who is vice chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said there was a need to act on tax reform now, rather than waiting until after the budget bills are on the governor's desk.

"There's a lack of trust or confidence between the two chambers about what would happen. We need to look at how it's going to be staged and what the agreement would be," he said.

Kerans has called for a revenue summit, which would bring experts together and raise the discus-

sion to a higher level.

"We need to try and make sure that as we do our work, that the public understands it in a real way," he said.

Paulus said the problem of higher education funding would be solved by finding a stable and predictable method of paying for kindergarten through the 12th grade.

"Your problem at the university and college level can only be solved if you get me and 530,000 kids out of the General Fund," Paulus said.

Paulus disputed the notion that people would want to change the tax system if legislators try to sell tax reform by linking it with government efficiency.

"It is possible within the next year to have people change the system if you tie it directly to the education of their children in elementary and secondary schools," she said.

Roberts urged the audience to educate as many people as they could about the effects of Measure 5 on basic education, higher education and human services.

One audience member told the governor that he believed it should be the job of legislators to spread the word because university faculty are already being pressed to the limits of their productivity.

In an interview with the *Emerald*, Roberts said she did not believe it was unreasonable under the current budget crunch for teachers to be required to teach one additional class per year.

"The choices are to raise the tuition beyond the point that students can get into this institution, to cut access further, or to cut services to the University further," Roberts said.

"I don't think those are good alternatives. All of us can reexamine what we do," she said.

University chemistry Professor Paul Engelking said that the requirement would not be practical.

"We work 58 hours a week. Forty hours a week are spent on teaching and administration, and the other 18 are spent on research," he said.

If the University continues a trend of teaching more and researching less, Engelking said the University will no longer be an anchor for high-tech industry.

Students' financial need increases

By Debbie Lair
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The number of students in need of financial aid has increased by 15 percent in each of the past two years, said the University's director of financial aid.

The increased student need is partly a result of 1990's Ballot Measure 5, which has reduced state funding for the University, said Ed Vignoul, financial aid director.

"Congress also changed the rules on us last summer," Vignoul said. "More students are eligible for financial aid."

Now students are no longer expected to make a minimum contribution to help with the cost

of education. "And maybe more people are shopping for new schools," Vignoul said.

About \$35 million in aid was dispersed to students last year, Vignoul said, but this figure does not count department scholarships or the graduate teaching fellow program.

Vignoul said the annual cost of education has increased by about \$3,207 from two years ago to a \$14,577 total for non-resident undergraduates. For resident undergraduates, the cost increase from two years ago is \$675 per year to a \$8,205 total. But Vignoul said the cost for the 1993-94 school year may still change.

The financial aid office received 1,394 more applications

this year for aid by the March 1 deadline for on-time applications than by the same time last year, Vignoul said. He expects the financial aid office to receive more than 15,000 applications this year.

Vicki Bockes, financial aid office manager, said University President Myles Brand gave approval to fill a full-time counselor position that had remained unfilled since last August.

The earliest the position will be filled is June, Bockes said. This will allow a reallocation of the office's client load to the remaining financial aid counselors in September, allowing for a more reasonable client load per counselor.

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