

PSU to eliminate 166 positions



PORTLAND (AP) — Portland State University plans to cut its staff and administration by about one-fifth over the next two years to meet the demands of the Measure 5 property tax limit.

But the school hopes to avoid losing any of its 15,000 students.

That means more work for those in the remaining 445 academic positions, none of whom will get pay raises. Foreign language teachers, for example, expect to have larger classes.

"Students are going to be ill-served," said Craig Wollner, a history professor and president of the PSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The plan will be subject to change after responses from faculty and students in a series of hearings this month. Legislative action on state funding for higher education also could change the details.

"It is horrible," said Linda Parshall, chairwoman of foreign languages and literature and a member of the budget reduction committee. "It is obviously extremely bad for morale. In addition, it is going to be bad for quality."

The plan — announced to faculty and students

during a meeting in the gymnasium Tuesday afternoon — calls for eliminating 106 administrative and instructional positions, 52 classified positions, such as secretaries and janitors, and eight graduate assistant positions. Some positions affect more than one person since some teachers work part time.

The administration recommended reducing vacant positions and encouraging early retirements rather than cutting whole programs, which are difficult to replace. But that hits some departments harder than others. Chemistry, for example, is faced with losing five of its 14 positions.

"We're not sure what we're going to do," said Robert O'Brien, professor of chemistry.

Proposed cuts include 34 positions from liberal arts and sciences, six from business administration, 4.5 from engineering, two from fine and performing arts, 1.5 from social work, 3.5 from urban and public affairs, four from the dance program, 10 from various centers and institutes and 11 from administration.

The cuts are based on Gov. Barbara Robert's proposed budget, which calls for whittling PSU's instructional budget from about \$141 million for 1991-93 to about \$135 million for 1993-95.

Man in hot water over wife's death



MEDIA, Pa. (AP)

— To prosecutors, Charles Bagley is a greedy killer who beat his wife and drowned her in their hot tub to collect \$500,000 in life insurance because he was about to lose his job as an assistant professor.

To defense attorneys, Bagley is an absent-minded academic whose wife was accidentally electrocuted by a soldering gun he left lying around while he doing bathroom renovations.

Delaware County Judge Joseph Cronin, who heard a non-jury trial, said he will have a verdict by Monday.

Bagley was charged with murder

in the beating and drowning death of his Indian-born wife, Yvonne, 28, at their Radnor home March 26, 1989. Bagley has been out on \$15,000 bail. If convicted, 47-year-old Bagley could be sentenced to life in prison.

During the trial, the defense offered theories on what killed Yvonne Bagley. One defense witness said she may have died from hot water epilepsy, a malady reported in the region of India where she was born.

Another said bath salts and olive oil she used, plus the water's high temperature, increased its electrical conductivity.

But a prosecution witness said a test in the hot tub showed a soldering gun didn't put out enough electricity to shock, let alone kill, anyone. Another test, using a pig in a puddle, only stunned the animal.

In closing arguments Wednesday, prosecutor Joel Goldstein maintained Yvonne Bagley's death was no accident. "We say he forcibly submerged his wife with the intent to kill her," Goldstein said.

Goldstein also dismissed defense suggestions about how Yvonne Bagley died as diversionary tactics.

"He didn't like his wife, not even a little bit," Goldstein said.



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