

OSSHE

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The remaining 80 percent of the budget generated by OSSHE, through tuition, fees, federal grants and contracts, would be controlled and dispensed by the board.

"The Legislature only owns 20 percent of the company, but it controls 100 percent of the votes," said Weldon Ihrig, vice-chancellor of finance and administration for the state board.

If approved during the upcoming legislative session, the move could save as much as \$10 million a year and would also curtail costly state assessments and audit fees, say Oregon State System of Higher Education officials.

The predicted savings will maintain access for 2,000 undergraduates during the 1995 - 1997 biennium. In fact, the \$20 million saved over two years has already been factored into the budget, according to Ihrig.

"The money will be spent either on educating 2,000 students or on continuing redundant administrative processes," said Ihrig.

The public corporation idea is one of the many changes officials hope to make

in the scramble to keep the system alive while coping with dwindling state dollars allotted for higher education since the passage of Ballot Measure 5 in 1990.

The measure put a cap on the property tax rate and resulted in less money for the state.

In essence, the proposal would amend 96 sections of the Oregon Revised Statutes and wipe out 18 sections. The changes would relieve the state system from following state purchasing contracts and allow the state system to make autonomous personnel decisions without state oversight.

But many legislators have expressed opposition over the proposal, saying the implementation of such a change as written is vague and unclear.

"I don't think the proposal has been explained well. There is a willingness to look at reducing costs, but there seems to be some confusion between a public corporation and privatization," said State Sen. Cliff Trow (D-Corvallis), who is co-chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

"The public corporation idea raises more questions than it answers. How would decisions be made? Who would determine the tuition and fees?" he said.

Trow said the bill addresses areas with excessive red tape, duplication and costs. The Ways and Means committee and the fiscal staff will identify the parts of the bill that address cost-cutting measures and could be saved, if the entire bill fails.

Some of the added costs include assessments by the state to OSSHE for state projects that are not directly related to higher education.

"The state assessed money from OSSHE for the construction of a new parking garage in Salem," Ihrig said. "We only have three employees there."

The state divides the cost of projects, for example, the parking garage, among all the state agencies, including OSSHE, regardless of whether or not the agencies use the facility, Ihrig said.

"The state budget office reviews our budget before it's sent to the legislature for approval," he said. "The annual assessment from the state's budget office costs more than it does for OSSHE to prepare the budget."

On June 22, some legislators and board members came together in Salem to discuss the proposal.

"I went into the meeting fairly skepti-

cal," said State Sen. Lenn Hannon (R-Ashland), who sits on the Ways and Means Committee. "I came away substantially relieved because all the state system is asking for is more discretionary management."

Hannon, like other legislators, believes the terminology of "public corporation" has created an aura of misunderstanding around the issue.

"Certainly, there are some mechanics that need to be ironed out, but I couldn't find anything to be greatly concerned about," said Hannon.

"There are a lot of legislators who are not willing to let go of their fiscal control, and they are suspicious of this proposal," said Grattan Kerans, OSSHE government affairs director.

"The Legislature thinks it might have less control over a new entity," said Gerald Kissler, University vice provost for planning and resources. "But the proposal isn't designed to take oversight away from the Legislature. It only changes the way we conduct our business."

If the state system wants flexibility, efficiency and responsiveness, said Kissler, authority to make decisions at the local level must exist.

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OREGON WEST FITNESS

SIMPSON
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help with the media.

"It was a very difficult situation. What I tried to do when he asked me to come to the hospital was cut off everybody in the hospital from him and his family, so he and his family could be alone with his daughter," Simpson said, who also handled the funeral where more than 35,000 people attended.

"When you go through something like that with anybody, you become real close and that just strengthened the bond we had."

But his relationship with the once "archsegregationist" — as one biographer called Thurmond — has forced many to question Simpson.

Four days before coming to Eugene on Aug. 30, 1993, Simpson was the focus of a *Eugene Weekly* "Short Report" that flagged Simpson's "conservative resume." Almost half of the article focused on Thurmond's reputation while noting Simpson's ties to him.

"I read that story back in South Carolina, and it dismayed me because it portrayed me as some sort of right wing, conservative political activist when there's nothing further from the truth," Simpson said.

"So, it dismayed me that this particular publication clearly went after me by taking one very small facet of my resume and blowing it somewhat out of proportion."

Many at Indiana University are as concerned about Simpson being an ultra-conservative just as *Eugene Weekly* was when he first arrived here.

"This throws people for a loop," said a reporter with an Indiana University student publication, the *Indiana Voice*. "Here comes Myles Brand, who people are pretty happy to see coming, and then behind him is Christopher Simpson, who people are just not sure about."

The reporter said that the liberal Brand coupled with the apparently right wing Simpson makes an odd match to govern the university.

But Brand said he is confident that Simpson is the right choice for Indiana.

"I think very highly of him, Christopher," Brand said by phone.

One advantage about Indiana that Simpson hints at is the stability the job offers, a welcome change to the constant career moves he's made in the past.

"I have moved much too frequently in the last six years. My kids are entering the second and fifth grades next year," he said. "They have asked Myles to be there for the next 10 years, and it is my intention to be with him for the next 10 years."

That's what he said about Oregon.

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