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Tuition increase may be less than expected

Funds: Kitzhaber's proposed budget could reduce tuition increases

Tiffany Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

About \$603 million will go to higher education in Gov.-elect John Kitzhaber's proposed budget, according to Jon Yunker, chief budget adviser. Tuition will increase by 4 percent, down from the 7 percent increase proposed by Gov. Barbara Roberts.

Additionally, higher education will take a 15 percent

cut from the General Fund. However, Yunker said in the scheme of the entire budget, the overall cut is "considerably less." He could not say how much the overall cut would be.

The budget "provides for the same enrollment and keeps tuition down," Yunker said. "Higher education believes it's a livable budget."

University President Dave

Frohnmayr said, "I am very pleased," with the budget. "It is modestly better than what we started with," referring to the proposed Roberts budget.

Frohnmayr said he hopes this coming biennium's budget will "be the foundation strengthening higher education."

Heather Bell, an Interior Architecture student,

expressed frustration with a tuition increase although it is less than initially proposed.

"I've been at school here for over four years now and my tuition has almost doubled," Bell said. "I'm basically going to school on loans. I'm paying a lot to be here."

Adam Rasmussen, an Asian Studies student, said

he personally feels bad because his tuition will still go up. However, he said ideologically it's good.

Reports by *The Register-Guard* said the governor-elect proposed fuller classes and fewer classes in order to promote productivity. However, Frohnmayr said, "I know of no such written

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The Duck Stop



The Duck Stop coffee bar is in its second week of operation at the University bookstore.

GARY GRASSIE/emerald

Legibility of names causes loan delay

Disbursement: Reinspection leads to late delivery of promissory notes

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

Fifty-six University students may have had a tough time meeting tuition, rent and food costs this term when the U.S. Department of Education initially denied their promissory notes for Stafford loans.

The department questioned the legibility of the students' signatures on the notes, which the University sends to Washington, D.C. So the department asked the University in late December to provide further signed documents of the 56 students, said Jim Heiss, manager of the University Office of Business Affairs.

Last Friday the department approved the 56 promissory notes based on the additional information, Heiss said. He added he thinks the loan money will be disbursed into the students' accounts today or tomorrow.

"I'm anticipating and am hopeful that by the first of this week the whole thing will be resolved," Heiss said. "The students did nothing wrong. It's just sort of a temporary malady of the system, but it is being resolved fairly quickly."

Some students who count on the loans, which could be as little as \$200 up to \$2,500, to pay for rent and other expenses are finding themselves in a bind.

"I'm just getting by because I'm delaying paying my

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Measure 8 faces difficult times

8
MEASURE

First in a
five-part series

Reform: The work of Tiernan and Sizemore may be undermined by lawsuits

Editor's note: Measure 8 will significantly impact the University and its employees. The Emerald will analyze the legality and effects of this measure in this five-part series.

Ben Moebius
Oregon Daily Emerald

Both Oregon representative Bob Tiernan and Bill Sizemore, executive director of Oregon Taxpayers United, said they became involved with public employee pension reform because the problem was too glaring to ignore.

"It was obvious that public employee retirement was costing the state millions more than it should," said Sizemore, who first drafted Measure 8 in March 1993. "It was also obvious that this was an issue the legislature would never take up."

Sizemore decided to study the issue, draft a proposal and take the issue directly to the public.

At about the same time in early 1993, Tiernan began to explore the public employee retirement system after a labor committee meeting. At the meeting, the Oregon Public Employ-

ees Union filed a bill to grant Senior Executive Retirement Plans (SERPS) to all public employees.

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing," said Tiernan, who is chairman of the Government and Regulatory Reform committee. "SERPS are used to get around IRS limits against over generous retirement plans. That's when I first became aware that there were serious problems."

After looking into the laws, Tiernan said he found many public employees were using loopholes to retire on higher average earnings than they made while working.

"Retirement benefits were based on final salary," Tiernan said. "The board game was to try to jack up the final salary as far as possible. Employees were allowed to roll over sick leave and vacation leave to increase their final salaries."

Bentley Gilbert, spokesman for the Salem-based Oregon public Employees Union, said Tiernan was implying there was a corrupt, wealthy retirement system against a wide range of evidence to the contrary.

"The truth is, based on a report issued last week, state employees

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■ GOOD MORNING

► LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's upcoming book probably won't contain any startling revelations and may be just an attempt to gain good publicity and much-needed cash, legal analysts said Sunday.

"I can't believe defense lawyers didn't go over this with a fine-toothed comb to find out if there's anything that could hurt them," said Loyola University law professor Stanley Goldman.

However, it could give prosecutors grounds to seek delays while they study its contents.

The book, "I Want to Tell You," reportedly describes Simpson's agony over being wrongly accused of the June 12 killings of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

It is Simpson's response to more than 300,000 pieces of mail he has received since he was arrested, Lawrence Schiller, who collaborated with Simpson on the project, told *The New York Times*.

Simpson receives 2,000 to 3,000 pieces of mail daily from people all over the world, includ-

POP QUIZ

What is the length of the longest tunnel in the U.S. and what is its name?

on 1-70 in Colorado
E. Johnson memorial
1.69 miles

SOURCE: 1995 World Almanac

EMERALD

ing children who enclose their allowances.

The book is to be published next month, the *Times* reported Sunday.

News of the book came just before the start of a hearing on whether jurors may hear evidence about domestic violence in Simpson's marriage.

Prosecutors may seek a delay in the start of Wednesday's hearing since the book reportedly discusses allegations of spousal abuse, and prosecutors could seek more time to investigate, analysts said.