

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

Higher Education, an independent journal of higher education.

Oregon is also the only state planning to reduce state support by a total of 14.7 percent under Gov. Kitzhaber's budget proposal for the upcoming 1995-97 biennium.

"This is morally, ethically and fiscally wrong, as far as we're concerned," said University President Dave Frohnmayer.

Facing the proposed funding reduction, University administrators are tackling this legislative session head-on, trying to reduce the proposed financial blow to higher education.

"We're taking our gloves off and screaming and yelling, because it's time to stop this," said Randy MacDonald, University director of legislative and community relations.

They would like to see the same amount of money to be allocated to higher education as during the 1992-94 biennium, not including inflation adjustments.

The University has printed a 1995 Legislative Agenda, to be hand delivered to all legislators, which markets funding Oregon's university and college educational system as an economic strategy for the state.

"Oregon is making some very hard cuts exactly at a time when the economy is changing and when it is important to have a college education," MacDonald said.

The Legislative Agenda cites an influx of in-state students into the educational system in the next decade as well as the necessity to provide a college education for people entering the changing face of the work force.

The University said the number of Oregon high school graduates will increase by a record 40 percent within the next

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— **RANDY MACDONALD**
University director of legislative and community relations

decade.

MacDonald said it is necessary to keep the University and the seven other state institutions of higher education competitive with other college and universities or Oregon will lose its greatest resource — students.

"We're exporting our best and brightest students because of budget cuts and tuition increases," MacDonald said.

Also, the Legislative Agenda said the state's economy has changed from that of a technically driven work force to that of a professional and managerial work force. This switch requires employees to have college-level skills.

Between 1989 and 1993, the total number of new jobs created included 70,000 new professional and managerial industries jobs and 46,000 new positions in the sales, clerical and service industries. Blue collar jobs, on the other hand, were reduced by 38,000 employees.

"Our objective is to serve Oregonians, but we need some help from the taxpayers and from the state," MacDonald said.

"If the state keeps cutting your budget it's hard to remain competitive," he said.

Frohnmayer said many of the legislators he has met have been supportive of funding higher education. Co-chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Denny Jones sup-

ports higher education that is accessible and affordable.

MacDonald describes Jones as a champion of higher education. Jones has met with University administrators to talk about meeting funding needs to avoid tuition increases, eliminate additional fees to students and provide salary increases to faculty and staff.

MacDonald said Jones supports providing an additional \$75 million to the state system of higher education. This money would bring the proposed 14.7 percent cut in higher education to zero.

"I'm hopeful that Denny can get all the way to \$75 million, but realistically we'll probably fall short of that," MacDonald said.

John Moseley, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the University can't keep up with the policy of improving undergraduate education in the wake of budget cuts, like they have in the past.

He said he thought undergraduate education was better today than it was four years ago, prior to Ballot Measure 5 budget cuts.

Moseley said faculty and staff members' salaries were frozen from inflation increases two years ago.

"Two years of a salary freeze in the face of inflation, and then a 6 percent hit from Measure 8 make us very vulnerable," Frohnmayer said.

Currently, Moseley said the University is only paying faculty and staff members 84-85 percent of what other comparable universities are paying faculty and staff members.

"We're 15 percent below and we need to close the gap," Moseley said.

The budget review process discussions should begin in the Ways and Means sub-committee in about six weeks, MacDonald said.

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