

Bill would give state universities control of budgets

Regina Brown
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon State System of Higher Education is pushing a bill through the Oregon Legislature that will give OSSHE more control over its own budget.

Senate Bill 271 could reorganize the business side of OSSHE by reducing bureaucracy, said Grattan Kerans, director of government relations for OSSHE. As of now, the state Legislature must approve all OSSHE's spending decisions before handing over any money. If SB 271 passes, OSSHE will have more control over how its budget is spent.

This will reduce the cost of decision making by about \$15 million because it will cut down on the amount of paperwork needed to finalize a decision, he said.

"We're doing our best to be as cost effective as we possibly

can," he said.

The money saved will replace funds lost when 1990's Ballot Measure 5 passed. The measure reduced property taxes, one of the major sources of income for Oregon's public education system. The state has struggled to find a way to replace that money since the measure passed.

OSSHE has already lost \$50 million dollars because of budget cuts and expects to lose another \$100 million by 1997, he said.

The money saved by transferring control to OSSHE will pay for educational basics such as faculty salaries and student tuition, said Herbert Aschlesnasy, vice president of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

Kerans said management of the funds by the Legislature is unnecessary and that self-reliance would make OSSHE

more efficient.

Some politicians oppose SB 271 because they fear some statutes might take away state accountability of school property, said Patricia O'Sullivan, statewide legislative manager for the department of administrative services.

OSSHE is trimming sections from the bill to increase its chances of passing, Kerans said. It is working with the state Department of Administrative Services to establish four main areas of revision. This may help SB 271 to pass.

As of now, OSSHE must make all of its outside contacts through the state, including contracting and purchasing equipment and services. All state agencies must go through this approval process, but it is more costly for OSSHE to do this through the state than it would be to do it as an educational institution, Kerans said.

OSSHE wants to handle purchasing and contracting by itself by eliminating involvement by the state Department of Administrative Services. OSSHE hopes to end the approval process at the chancellor's office, O'Sullivan said.

OSSHE is working to establish its own guidelines for paying its employees. All state employees are part of a classification system that determines their salary based on their job requirements, she said.

For instance, wages for a secretary at a university are comparable to the wages of a secretary at the department of motor vehicles because they do the same type of work, she said.

OSSHE also wants to be responsible for all of its own printing requirements, she said.

OSSHE is constantly revising SB 271 in hopes that the Legislature will eventually accept it.

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— GRATTAN KERANS
director of government relations for
OSSHE

Kerans said. The bill began with 300 sections and has now been reduced to 100. It will probably have only 40 sections by the time it is up for passing, he said.

If the bill does not pass before the congressional session ends on Memorial Day, it will be pushed back to the next session, which is scheduled to begin January 1997.

SB 271 is scheduled to be heard on Thursday morning, O'Sullivan said.

RALLY

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day, as were three regional and three local Children's Services Division offices.

Officials said welfare checks and food stamps might be delayed.

At the state Employment Department, officials managed to mail out more than 30,000 unemployment checks Tuesday, but computers listing job openings continued to be shut down.

Revenue Department officials said tax refund checks were being delivered, but that calls to taxpayer assistance were taking longer to get answered.

About 3,617 public employees showed up for work Monday, roughly a 22 percent turnout, he said.

State spokesman Bentley Gilbert declined to say what form the strike would take after Wednesday, but the union intends to continue the strike until the pay issue is resolved, according to wire reports.

Striking workers will be at the picket lines today.

Women of Color Conference begins today

Patrick Minford
Oregon Daily Emerald

Being a woman and a minority in America can be difficult, but a day-long conference today may help empower women of color and make others aware of the problems minority women face.

The annual Women of Color Conference, sponsored by the ASUO and the Women's Center, will focus on issues affecting minority women, including health, career, safety and identity concerns.

"This kind of conference allows women of color to identify with each other," ASUO Women's Diversity Coordinator Sandra Cho said.

The highlight of the day's events will be two lectures by keynote speaker

Kathryn Flewellen, director of the Building Bridges Project of the National Immigration Forum. Flewellen will speak on the future of women of color at noon in Gerlinger Lounge and on immigration issues at 6 p.m. in the Ballroom during dinner, Cho said.

The conference will begin at 9 a.m. with a registration session and continental breakfast in the EMU Ballroom Lobby. Several sessions on women's issues will be presented by community leaders.

The event, which includes meals, is free, thanks to contributions from several campus and community sponsors. Coordinators encourage anyone interested in learning about women of color to attend.

The Emerald is taking applications for next year's staff. Apply by May 15

TODAY

ASUO
WOMEN OF COLOR
CONFERENCE

still i rise
— maya angelou

**COME PARTICIPATE IN
EMPOWERMENT (FOR FREE)**

Erb Memorial Union, UO

Registration, information and continental breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. in the EMU Ballroom Lobby.
Lunch with keynote speaker Kathryn Flewellen takes place from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Gerlinger Lounge.
Dinner with Kathryn Flewellen is at 6:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom and is followed by a reception with music in the EMU Gumwood Room at 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon
and the ASUO Women's Center



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