International students hear administration proposals

Administrative officials look into scholarships and immigration laws

By Kari Thorene
Higher Education Reporter

"What we talked about was the need for immediate, middle-term and long-term solutions," Executive Assistant President Dave Hubin said about his meeting with the international student leadership last Friday.

The group leaders met with administrative officials to discuss options to help the international students from Southeast Asia and Korea whose currencies have been devalued due to the region's economic crisis.

"We went to ask them about progress toward a tuition reduction, and the answer was pretty negative," said Amita Malakar, co-director of the International Student Association. "Even if it was possible, it's a very long process."

Hubin said there are other options worth exploring.

"From here, we're working on two fronts," Hubin said. One possibility is a scholarship fund set up with international money, Hubin said. He said he plans to meet with Duncan McDonald, vice president for public affairs and development, and Tom Mills, international education and exchange director, this week to discuss the possibility of creating such a fund.

"It's better than the loans because the loans you have to pay back," ISA co-director Soo-hyn Bak said. International students were afraid to take out loans because their currency is so unstable, she said.

However, the administration has more work to do until the scholarships are a real option, Hubin said. "We're not in any position to commit to the scholarships yet," he said.

On a broader scale, Hubin said he is working with the American Council on Education to explore action the University can take in conjunction with other universities.

"With them, we are looking to influence federal policy," Hubin said.

Specifically, the council is looking to change immigration restrictions on outside employment for international students.

Malakar said changing immigration policy so international students can take time off from school to work could be a viable option for some international students.

"It's an option ... especially for seniors. It's ridiculous if they have to go back now. The three years, 3 1/2 years, they spent here are worthless then," Malakar said. "If they stay and work and then go back to school, they might be able to do it."

Current immigration laws prohibit international students from taking terms off from school to work, ISA office manager Catur Dewi said.

"We don't have the same rights as American students," Dewi said.

Republicans say budget revives big spending

President Clinton hopes to take advantage of a surging economy and tobacco settlement

By Alan Fram
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Proclaiming an era of fat federal surpluses, President Clinton unveiled a $1.73 trillion budget Monday claiming the first surpluses in 30 years and pumping billions to schools, health and child care. Republicans saw a big government revival, and House Speaker Newt Gingrich scoffed, "This is a budget only a liberal could love."

Clinton's fiscal 1999 proposal plays political offense and defense simultaneously, thanks to huge windfalls from a possible tobacco settlement and from a surging economy that has generated soaring federal revenues.

The president would please Democrats by pouring money into a wide sweep of initiatives, including hiring teachers, boosting scientific research and expanding welfare. He would cater to Republicans by producing a $9.5 billion surplus next year and $1.1 trillion in black ink through the decade. But he again warned them to leave that money alone while a solution to the long-term fiscal ills facing Social Security is found.

"You can have a smaller government but a more progressive one that gives you a stronger America," Clinton said at a White House ceremony.

GOP leaders were buying none of that. They complained that the president was unleashing tens of billions in new programs over the next five years, producing a balanced budget but also a bigger one than necessary. They promised to come up with a leaner plan of their own that emphasized tax cuts, not new spending.

"Looking at this budget, the era of big government is back," House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, said of Clinton's proposal.

"This is going to be a classic debate," said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. "Do we want more government or less? Do we want to give the people of the United States a tax break?"

The Republican remarks signaled that despite the truce over cutting deficits that last summer's budget pact produced, this congressional election year will feature partisan battling over how to shape government in a time of prosperity. Clinton's blueprint is a proposal only, and many of its initiatives are sure to be dropped or changed by the Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

Indeed, the Clinton plan for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 left several crucial questions unanswered or vague.

It does not spell out the precise price tag for Clinton's new domestic initiatives, which number in the scores. Administration officials estimated annual costs of his chief spending increases and tax cuts at $12 billion to $20 billion annually, while Domenici said Clinton was proposing $150 billion in new items over five years.

Overall, Clinton's budget foresaw a 3.9 percent increase in federal spending over the current fiscal year.

Clinton does not clearly specify which programs would be cut to offset some of his increases. He would save $17 billion over five years by limiting benefits paid to veterans who claim disabilities due to smoking. Billions in other savings would come from reducing Medicare fraud, changing the student loan program, and reducing administrative costs of the Food Stamps and Medicaid programs.

And when asked how the country could afford the administration plan if no tobacco legislation is produced — a real possibility — White House budget chief Franklin Raines provided little help, saying other savings would have to be found or the increases themselves would have to be pared.

Many Republicans hope that in the months ahead, Clinton will be weakened by accusations that he had an affair with a former White House intern and tried to orchestrate a cover-up. House Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, seemed to hint at the allegations Monday.

"A leopard can't change his spots," DeLay said. "It must also be said of Bill Clinton that he can't stop his bad habits, the most obvious of those habits being his propensity to tax and spend."

But Clinton's package shows little political timidity.

He would raise $106 billion in new revenue over the next five years, including $65.5 billion from legislation embodying a settlement with the tobacco industry that would add $1.10 to the cost of a pack of cigarettes. An additional $23 billion would come from tax increases on the insurance industry, Wall Street and investors and billions more would come from levies on polluters and others.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

University student involved in crash

A University student was involved in a fatal vehicle accident Sunday evening on Willamette Street near 30th Avenue, a police news release said.

Michael Timothy Fabbre, 21, was driving a 1988 Jeep Cherokee Laredo south on Willamette Street and collided with a northbound 1989 Toyota Camry. The driver of the Camry was Carlisle Moore, 87.

Moore was pronounced dead on arrival at Sacred Heart Medical Center following transport by Eugene Fire Department medics. Moore suffered cardiac arrest at the scene of the accident, but the cause of death has yet to be determined. Fabbre was not injured in the accident.

Adeline Cassettari, 80, a passenger in the Toyota, was also transported to the hospital for injuries sustained in the accident.

Police do not believe that excessive speed or alcohol were factors in the accident.