

# OSU students fret, protest 'unfair' tuition hike

■ The demonstrators say Oregon University System budget cuts put other state issues before the students

By Andrew Adams  
Oregon Daily Emerald

CORVALLIS — While the State Board of Higher Education hashed out its decision on the Bend branch campus, a group of about 20 Oregon State University students stood quietly nearby, holding placards in protest of what they believe is an unfair tuition hike.

Faced with a possible \$96 million cut in higher education funding, the Oregon University System has essentially made it clear that the tuition freeze of the last few years has thawed out. As a result,

students could receive more than an 8 percent increase in tuition next year. But what irks students more is that their tuition dollars may be used to fill holes in other areas of the state's budget.

As the board began to discuss budget issues, the students began shaking their signs reading "Tuition must stay in the system," "Don't be puppets" and "Increased tuition: mo' money, mo' problems" to draw board members' attention to their cause.

Justin Roach, OSU student body president, helped lead the demonstration. He said the tuition issue has many students upset in Corvallis because they believe the state board is kowtowing to the governor's budget cuts and not standing up for students.

"We need the board to join with

us," he said.

Roach also said he is frustrated with how the current state budget has students shouldering the financial burden of other state programs.

**“If we compromise while this is in progress, we compromise ourselves out.”**

**Don VanLuvanee**  
President, state board of higher education

OUS lobbyist Grattan Kerans told the board that while there has been a \$22.3 million "backfill" into the general fund from higher education revenue proposed, funding Oregon's universities is a

top priority for lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

He noted that student groups have been highly effective in making the state congressmen "sensitized" to the fact they don't want tuition funds going toward other state programs.

Joe Cox, chancellor of the OUS, said the university system is working on three main priorities in the budget process, including regaining funding for the entire system and ensuring money for the system's initiatives, which include improvements to the state's engineering schools and the establishment of the Bend branch campus.

Although the situation seems bad for the OUS, Cox said the funding picture will not be completely clear until the state's revenue projections are in and law-

makers determine where to direct money from Oregon's tobacco settlement.

"We'll wait until mid-May to find where the dollars are," he said.

Don VanLuvanee, State Board of Higher Education president, said OUS should devote its energy to first ensuring funding at the service level rather than working on several different budget issues facing the system.

He also said the OUS should not make deals during the budget process before adequate funding for the system is ensured because it would run the risk of not meeting all the system needs.

"If we compromise while this is in progress, we compromise ourselves out," he said.

## Bend branch

continued from page 1

tory, Frohnmayer said he was thankful that the University would not be "shut out of that growing part of the state."

Tim Young, board member and University student, was the lone dissenting vote in the decision. He said he thought the University's proposal offered more "bang for the buck" because of what he said was its breadth in curriculum.

The board's decision is the end of what has been called a civil war be-

tween the University and OSU for the chance to expand into the quickly developing region of Central Oregon. Expected to be ready for the start of the academic year in September, the branch campus will now offer a full degree from OSU in a variety of fields.

More than \$7 million has been earmarked for the proposed institution that will be located on the Central Oregon Community College campus in Bend. While there is a slim chance that the funding will fall through during the current legislative session, strong support

from Central Oregon legislators on key committees makes most concerned parties believe the state funds are secure.

As part of the collaborative nature called for by the board, the University will remain a presence in Central Oregon, but how much of presence still needs to be decided.

OSU President Paul Risser was pleased with the decision and said collaboration between OSU and the UO has always been an element of OSU's plans for the branch campus.

Tim White, OSU provost and

vice president, also said working with the UO has been included in OSU's plans "from the get-go" and said mandating that the two work together was almost redundant.

He said developing a working relationship between the two institutions is one of the first steps in OSU's implementation plans and added he will be meeting with John Moseley, University of Oregon provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"John and I are going to visit Tuesday morning at 8 to discuss that relationship," White said.

Moseley, who did much of the work developing the University's proposal, was disheartened after the board's decision.

"It's disappointing in a sense because we feel that we had the best proposal," he said.

He said the University should still be able to offer some of the best elements of its plan in Central Oregon through its joint-effort with OSU and said he is optimistic about this relationship.

"Hopefully it will be good for both universities," Moseley said.

# Art Furniture Sale 2001

## 15% OFF

### TABLE ACCESSORIES

- Pencil Trays
- Spin-O-Trays
- Optima Side Trays
- Ultima Storage Fans
- Spiroll Drawing Protectors

**February 19<sup>th</sup>  
through March 4<sup>th</sup>**



## 15% MORE

### OFF OUR SALE PRICES!

- Art Furniture
- Drafting Furniture
- Desk & Drafting Chairs
- 5 Drawer Flat Files
- Gagne Light Boxes
- Taborets
- Artograph Opaque Projectors & Light Boxes

**OUR BEST PRICES  
OF THE YEAR!**

## UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOOKSTORE

**GOT A STORY IDEA?**



**GIVE US A CALL! 346-5511**