

Budget

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OUS has been struggling through this budget session, and funding was slashed by nearly \$100 million in Gov. John Kitzhaber's first budget proposal. The governor later restored \$45 million to higher education in his second proposal, but that amount is still significantly lower than the \$804.8 million that was originally requested by the Oregon University System for the 2001-2003 funding period.

In light of this, tuition is expected to increase by 2 to 5 percent and University President Dave Frohnmayer said the latest economic forecast does not change this one bit. He said the University is expecting to have to introduce a 4 to 5 percent tuition hike.

"Two percent would be almost utopian at this point," he said.

But Frohnmayer said with the governor's second budget proposal placing funding back into higher education and with the state's general fund not expected to be drastically lower revenue generated by the tuition increase is no longer likely to be used to fill other holes in the budget. This had been one of

the chief concerns of backers of higher education early on in the budget process.

"We want to make sure money stays on campus, and that's likely now," he said.

Frohnmayer said the economic forecast has little impact on OUS, aside from stabilizing the current situation.

“It's a leadership priority to restore parts of the \$96 million in cuts. We'll try to restore as many of the governor's cuts as possible.”

Betsy Close
state rep.

"The best thing I can say about it is we're no worse off than we've been," he said.

Frohnmayer said "it's been pretty quiet" in Salem following the release of the forecast, but he said he anticipated budgetary decisions would come quickly in the next few weeks, once a caucus has been established in the Legislature.

Rep. Ben Westlund, R-Bend, and

Sen. Lenn Hannon, R-Ashland, co-chairmen of the Ways and Means Committee, are expected to meet with Kitzhaber soon to hash out their budget plans. Rep. Betsy Close, R-Albany, who is a member of the Ways and Means committee on education, said once those three parties make their recommendations, the budget will be quickly put together.

"It's a leadership priority to restore parts of the \$96 million in cuts," she said. "We'll try to restore as many of the governor's cuts as possible."

Fellow subcommittee member Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Canby, said a key part of finding funding for higher education will be determining precisely what OUS needs to operate. Confusion has arisen because the Legislative Financial Office and OUS have submitted different reports on what that minimum service level is.

"A lot hinges on coming to an agreement on that service level," he said.

Schrader said the governor should release a third budget proposal next week. Following that, Schrader said he expects both Democrats and Republicans to work quickly to finalize the budget for higher education.

March

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high school and University students.

This year, SASS and the Women's Center have asked local musician Nicole Barrett to sing and Margo Schaefer, the community outreach director for Womenspace Domestic Violence Services, to give a speech at the end of the event.

Lara Modisette, sexual assault prevention and education coordinator for the ASUO Women's Center, said that in the past the event has ended with a "speak-out" that gives survivors of sexual assault the chance to share their thoughts with the crowd, but the forum tends to leave the crowd with a somber feeling. By having music and an empowering address after the speak-out, Modisette hopes to leave the crowd with a more uplifted feeling.

"This event focuses on how people have been hurt, and that deserves all the attention it can get," Schaefer said. "But people also need to know that women who are victims can emerge as survivors."

Schaefer also said that people need to understand the incredible power they have to support one another, and that there exist an abundance of support services in the community.

Jennifer Self, a former employee of the District Attorney's office for Victim's Services, will be speaking before the march begins.

"Jennifer is a dynamic community activist," Antos said. "We look forward to her inspiring women and men to work against sexual violence and all forms of oppression."

Self is currently a therapist and has done a lot of work with domestic abuse victims and sexual assault survivors.

"I've watched victims grow and heal," Self said. "It's

very motivating."

Self said her message will focus on how violence toward women affects everyone.

"Sexual assault and violence is an ever-present danger and is a weapon used in all forms of oppression," she said.

Modisette said men usually turn out in equal numbers to the women at the event each year.

"This is not just a women's issue," Modisette said. "We can't stop sexual assault without men's help. Every man has a mom or a sister or a girlfriend who could be victimized."

“This event focuses on how people have been hurt, and that deserves all the attention it can get.”

Margo Schaefer
Women spaceoutreach director

Schaefer agrees, saying men who take part in the march may see what it is really like for women to fear the night, especially when women have the chance to walk down the streets of Eugene and have total control over their own safety.

"The first time I took part in the march, I twirled around and didn't have to pay attention to what was going on around me," Schaefer said. "Men can notice how different women act when they finally feel safe on the streets — it's a joyful event."

The events at the EMU will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the march is scheduled to start no later than 8:15 p.m. The march will take about an hour, and refreshments are provided at the Eighth Avenue and Oak Street location.

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