OSU funding

continued from page 1

University of Oregon Provost John Moseley said that in light not only of OSU's budget problems but also of a predicted state budget shortfall of \$290 million, the current objective for universities around the state should be protecting instructional programs — not expansion.

"When we're in a situation where we don't have enough money to fund programs we have, we shouldn't be starting new ones," Moseley said. "Particularly expensive ones."

Tim Young, a student representative to the board and one of two board members to vote against the proposal, called it "fiscally irresponsible." Young, a University of Oregon political science major, agreed that there was a need for the proposed expansion but said the time is not right to expand.

"Once again, politicking has clouded the judgment of this board," he said. "Somebody in the Legislature has made this a priority, but if we're making decisions based on what the Legislature wants then we're not doing our job—we're a rubber stamp."

The proposal consists of two parts. First, OSU is requesting \$8 million in cash and bonds from the state general fund for construction and renovation of Magruder Hall, the building that houses the college. Second, it asks the Legislature to approve a \$6.5 million per-biennium operating budget for the college.

Dr. Howard Gelberg, dean of the college, defended the proposal, saying that the money spent on expanding the program would save money in the long run for both

OSU and the state. The college currently functions as a joint venture with Washington State University, wherein students are required to spend two years taking classes at WSU in order to complete the training required to become licensed veterinarians. OSU pays \$4 million per biennium to WSU for the program, Bender said.

"There are 27 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States," Gelberg said. "OSU is the only one that doesn't do full training on-site." Gelberg also pointed out that the college currently has no control over its curriculum, and WSU has the option to terminate the relationship at any time. He said that OSU has an obligation to the state to develop a more efficient program. But in light of OSU's recent budget woes - as well as its plans to operate a branch campus in Bend and improve its engineering program there are doubts as to whether the emergency board will approve the proposal.

According to Steven Bender, the legislative analyst for the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office, the project was anticipated during the last legislative session and \$4 million was set aside for it at the end of the session. But he said it's anyone's guess as to what the emergency board will decide to do with the proposal when it meets Nov. 15 and 16. "I don't know how this is going to fare,' Bender said. "I've started to review their request, and it seems consistent with what was earlier approved by the legislature. The question is whether it's prudent to grant the request.'

Leon Tovey is a higher education reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at leontovey@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Jones Emerald

Shun Yanagishita (right) and Jim Evangelista practice with the University's new sign language club at Espresso Roma.

ASL

continued from page 1

"It's at times an arduous University process," she said.

The club plans on petitioning and inviting guest speakers and advocates of ASL to speak on campus to help push the University towards recognizing ASL as a language, Sign Language Club vice president Ellie McGee said. ASL is currently offered at the University, but students will "never be able to know personally" the thoughts, ideas and personalities of the deaf community without at least another year of ASL instruction, she said.

We are "doing everything we can to prove to the curriculum committee that by denying us the opportunity to learn ASL as another language, they are basically saying that communicating with deaf people is not a priority," she said.

McGee said it is a common misconception that ASL isn't a true language because it is "just English, signed."

"The truth is ASL doesn't even have roots in the English language, and it differs from English in many ways," she said. "ASL word order may be similar to English, but grammatically and inflectionally it is very different." McGee added that to become fluent in ASL requires just as much time and effort as it would to gain fluency in any other language.

Although this issue is important, the main focus of the club is to teach about deaf culture and have fun, Yanagishita said. Those interested in the club can attend their next "Sign and Dine" on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Pegasus Pizza.

"Anyone interested can join," she said. "It's just a fun club. We do fun things."

Anna Seeley is a student activities reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at annaseeley@dailyemerald.com.

News briefs

Plan outlines reductions in University budget

University officials formulated the first part of a plan to incrementally reduce the school's budget Friday, freeing financial room for an impending state budget shortfall that could top \$290 million.

The short-term plan, due Friday from each of the seven public universities in the Oregon University System, targeted administrative reductions and detailed the impact each reduction would have.

On Oct. 19, Gov. John Kitzhaber ordered the seven OUS schools — including the University of Oregon — to have the plans ready for review by Nov. 2, University Provost John Moseley said. Moseley and Francis Dyke, associate

vice president of resource management, spearheaded the University's reduction plan and had it completed late Friday afternoon, Moseley said. It targets up to \$1.5 million in administrative cuts, but it is unlikely the school will be asked to cut that much, officials

The universities also must complete a long-term reductions plan, which would target specific academic programs, by Nov. 19. Moseley has said the University can absorb a 4 percent reduction without academic programs being seriously affected.

The short-term plan, which was not available to the Emerald on Friday, trims up to 10 percent of the University's administrative costs, Moseley said. It includes possible reductions in classified staff, nonclassified staff and travel expenses, among other things, he said.

"I figured out the least painful way to make these cuts," Moseley said. "But I can't look at this as an accomplishment."

- Eric Martin

Special Education professor recieves award

Hill Walker of the University's College of Education won the 2001 Outstanding Service to the Field of Education award.

Walker, a professor of special education, accepted the award at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., on Oct. 13th. He also delivered the keynote address at the Lehigh's education alumni day.

"Hill Walker is without question one of the most outstanding members of the University faculty," said University President Dave Frohnmayer. "His groundbreaking work in special education and youth violence prevention is a source of pride to this institution, but more important, an immeasurable service to children, parents and educators everywhere."

Walker, who is co-director of the Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior, recently contributed to a book called "Safe School Design: A Handbook for Educational Leaders," which outlined methods to make schools safer without turning them into fortresses.

— John Liebhardt

Religious scholar to speak on Jewish, Arabic relations

An expert on Jewish and Arabic relations will speak today about the many parallels between the two religions.

Judith Romey Wegner, a former

associate professor of religious studies at Connecticut College, will discuss "Medieval Jewish and Islamic Exegetical Traditions: A Comparative Approach" at 4:30 p.m. today in the Browsing Room of the Knight Library. The free lecture is sponsored by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic

Wegner will show how medieval Islamic and Jewish texts interpreting the Bible and the Koran trace the history of the two religions.

"Not only does the Quran have much to say about Abraham, Moses and many other figures in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament," Wegner said, "But the two religions exhibit much similarity in doctrines and ritual practices, as well as in Jewish and Islamic law and oral traditions."

— John Liebhardt

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