

# Governor makes more cuts to higher education budget

■ The University's total level of cuts rises from \$6.8 million to \$8.2 million in the coming year

By Brook Reinhard  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Higher education will lose \$27.2 million more in funding in the coming year for graduate-level instruction and research money, Gov. John Kitzhaber said Wednesday. Kitzhaber announced \$80.7 million in cuts to bring Oregon's budget back into balance and said he will call the Legislature back into a third



KITZHABER

special session in June. The governor announced changes to the Legislature's most recent budget bill Tuesday, when he line-item vetoed portions of the budget that cut 911-response funding and relied on National Tobacco Trust money. Kitzhaber made up the difference today with his newest program cuts, but said he was sorry he had to cut additional funds from the state budget.

"We should never have arrived at this point in the first place," Kitzhaber said. "But I am still hopeful that we can adopt a more sustainable, responsible budget in a subsequent special session."

University Provost John Moseley said the University will do its best to cope with the new cuts, which raise the school's total level of cuts from \$6.8 million to \$8.2 million.

"I hope these cuts won't have an affect on the quality of education," Moseley said. "But we're going to be very stressed and stretched to educate over 20,000 students next year."

Kitzhaber's new cuts affect almost every aspect of the state budget; in addition to higher education's \$27.2 million cut, K-12 took a \$20 million cut, human services received a \$25.55 million cut, and community colleges lost \$3.3 million.

Combined with the Legislature's most recent cuts to higher education, the system now faces \$70.5 million in program reductions. Although most of the new cuts affect academic programs, research-intensive institutions, such as Oregon State University, stand to lose as much as \$24 million from their budget.

OSU Provost Tim White said he's hoping the governor's proposal is not the final word on the matter.

"If cuts of this magnitude suggested by the governor are implemented," he said, "the effects would be widespread and affect every county in the state of Oregon."

White said that although the new cuts don't directly target academics, the research, agricultural and forestry services OSU provides are desperately needed by the state.

"We support everything from hi-tech to hi-touch," he said. "We go from top to bottom — that's our mission."

But OSU student body president Justin Geddes said Oregon State has been targeted for budget cuts because of how aggressively the school has pursued funding for its own projects, such as top-tier engineering and veterinary schools.

"I've questioned whether this is the right time to be expanding" top-tier programs, Geddes said. "It would be great to have a top engineering school, but maybe the money might be better spent elsewhere."

State Sen. Tony Corcoran said OSU has received a higher level of funding for its programs than other universities in recent years.

Gov. John Kitzhaber announced \$27.2 million more in higher education budget cuts, including:

- Bend Campus: \$373,630
- Campus public services: \$1,000,000
- Graduate-level programs: \$3,130,439
- Statewide public services, including:
  - Agricultural Experiment Station: \$11,407,218
  - Extension Service: \$7,875,037
  - Forest Research Laboratory: \$1,128,340
  - Top-tier engineering instruction: \$2,375,000

SOURCE: Office of the Governor

"I don't think OSU got a disproportionate hit," he said. "The University of Oregon got nothing from the last four legislative sessions. There's a legitimate argument to be made that OSU is facing higher cuts because they've gotten a lot of extra research dollars in the past."

Oregon Student Association Executive Director Joelle Lester said Kitzhaber could have done worse. "These cuts aren't fair, but it definitely illustrates the far-reaching effect of these budget cuts," Lester said. "It is to the governor's credit that he left undergraduate instruction intact."

Bob Bruce, spokesman for the Oregon University System, agreed. "The governor was looking for ways to find the dollars he needed," Bruce said. "These reductions are designed to minimally affect academic programs."

But a permanent solution may be harder to find.

"Our best hope is that the economy will recover in Oregon," Bruce said.

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## Attack

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of attempted assaults since spring term 2001, including a Jan. 30 attempted rape behind the library. But Sewell wasn't sure if this attack was connected to any previous incident — including Tuesday night's reported attempted armed robbery outside Gerlinger.

He added that the man described by the woman seemed younger than the descriptions of

previous attackers.

"It could possibly be related to the attacks, but this area has been plagued by this kind of activity," Sewell said.

Project Saferide dispatcher Andi Pietruszka, working Wednesday night, agreed the area is becoming a notably dangerous place on campus, and the sudden increase in attacks is uniquely disturbing.

"Last year they were more spread out. This year they seem more frequent and in a more confined location around campus. It's scary," she said.

Pietruszka, a junior, said Saferide has been so booked lately that the shuttle service has had to turn women away. She praised the Department of Public Safety for also shuttling students around campus.

"I'd hate to tell women, 'Sorry, we can't take any more riders,'" she said.

Sewell said anyone with information about the attack should call DPS or the EPD Campus Detail Office at 346-2904.

E-mail managing editor Jeremy Lang at [jeremylang@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jeremylang@dailyemerald.com).

## Robbery

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and prominent acne scarring.

Although Collins also described the man as wearing black pants, a black sweatshirt and a black backpack, Alejandre warned that the description may be somewhat misleading. "Speaking as someone who's had a gun shoved in my face, in that type of situation, gray,

blue and black all seem like the same color," she said.

Collins, who lived for 18 months in Orlando, Fla., before moving back to Eugene after graduating from high school, said that "even in a so-called safe place like Eugene, things like this can happen."

"This isn't the first time this has happened to me, but you don't really expect it here," said Collins, who has also been held

at gunpoint in Orlando. "People move here because it's safe, but you never know."

Tom Hicks, associate director for the University's Department of Public Safety, encouraged students to contact DPS or EPD if they have any information about the incident or notice any suspicious activity.

E-mail community reporter Marty Toohey at [martytoohey@dailyemerald.com](mailto:martytoohey@dailyemerald.com).

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