



Oregon education cuts worst in nation

Simultaneous cuts in education spending and an increase in tuition are to blame for rock-bottom ratings in affordability from a new study

Jan Montry

City/State Politics Reporter

Oregon is cutting funding for higher education at a rate higher than any other state in the country, according to a study released this month.

The study, conducted by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, con-

cluded that Oregon had the highest decrease in state funding for colleges and universities — 11 percent — making Oregon's current economic situation the worst for affordability in the nation.

The results of the study follow a continuing trend of degrading affordability in Oregon. Last year, the same public policy group gave Oregon an "F" in affordability, down from a "D-" in 2000.

"I think it's a sad day," said Loren Stubbert, Oregon University System assistant vice chancellor for budget operations and planning. "It's extremely frustrating."

Stubbert said it was startling that Oregon was

ranked number 50, which was definitely not the end of the scale he would like to see the state on, but not surprising because Oregon's recession is lingering longer than in other states. This prolonged slump is forcing the state — which has already made \$88 million in cuts from its approved 2001 budget — to make choices about which essential services to fund first.

"I think we're certainly deserving and in need," he said. "But at the same time, we have to recognize competing demands."

Oregon Student Association Executive Director Alisa Simmons said that although the

group plans on fighting hard for more funding, the future looks grim for the growing margin of people who need aid.

"We can't keep locking folks out of an education," she said.

But with the economy in such a dire state and no solutions on the horizon, Stubbert said the state may have to decrease enrollment to maintain services.

"We have to consider that as one possible option," he said. "But it's not the first option we want to consider."

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Preventing theft



Identity theft can be a problem for students. Keeping personal information in a safe place and shredding discarded personal documents can help reduce the risk of being victimized.

Photo Illustration
Danielle Hickey
Emerald

Jeopardizing Identity

Officials stress the role of public awareness in preventing identity theft after a University student reported a questionable phone call

Caron Alarab

Crime/Safety/Transportation Reporter

On Jan. 25, an unidentified female student was called at her residence hall room by an unconfirmed company and asked to provide a slew of personal information for financial aid purposes. After becoming suspicious of the caller's intent for the information, the student canceled her credit cards, restricted her bank account access and reported the incident to the Eugene Police Department. But in the opinion of Department

of Public Safety officers, EPD officers and the Federal Trade Commission, post-incident actions are not half as important as public awareness and prevention methods when it comes to potential identity theft.

"It's a big epidemic," EPD Community Service Officer Erik Humphrey said.

Considering identity thieves can use personal information for everything from opening new credit card accounts to buying cars, Humphrey suggests safe-guarding all forms of information that could possibly be used in the crime.

"A Social Security number is the floodgate," he said. "If someone has multiple forms of identification, it's much worse."

The Federal Trade Commission offers a wealth of advice on

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Court reviews PFC budget recall process

The ASUO Constitutional Court has halted PFC activities pending an investigation into budget recall protocols

Brook Reinhard

News Editor

Activities of the ASUO Programs Finance Committee are being put on hold until the ASUO Constitution Court can rule whether PFC has appropriately conducted budget recalls.

While PFC members are still holding normal office hours, the committee canceled its normal Monday meeting and will probably have to postpone its Wednesday presentation to the Student Senate.

Oregon Daily Emerald editor in chief Michael J. Kleckner filed a petition for review with the court Friday, asking justices to halt the recall process because PFC has no established procedures or protocols governing budget recalls. The court issued a temporary injunction Friday against any further PFC recalls and has six days left to determine whether PFC conducted recalls properly.

PFC Chairwoman Kate Shull said if Constitutional Court justices do not reach a decision soon, the committee may have to skip further recalls and leave the budgets for the Emerald and Career Center untouched.

In an effort to speed up the process, Student Senate has submitted its own brief to the court, asking justices to rule in favor of PFC because the committee appeared to have followed correct meeting procedure in recalling budgets.

Shull said PFC also plans to make arguments in the case.

Court justices will decide the case based on one central question: Did PFC follow correct meeting procedure when it conducted recalls? The issue is complicated because PFC has no rules governing how recalls are conducted — so the dispute will only be resolved by consulting Robert's Rules of Order, which is how most public meetings are conducted.

"We did follow Robert's Rules of Order," Shull explained. "But we used incorrect terminology, it appears. We're now looking how to go back on that."

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WEATHER

Today: High 52, Low 40, mostly cloudy, scattered showers

Wednesday: High 50, Low 35, showers likely, light wind

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday

They travel around the state in a bus — to get out the vote

Thursday

Drug offenses may no longer cost students their financial aid

Art professor blends design, exploration

Professor Leon Johnson offers unusual classes taught with an air of 'pleasurable inquiry'

Ducks in profile

Ayisha Yahya
Freelance Editor

When Leon Johnson talks about his work, it is hard to ignore the passion he exudes. It wells up in his voice as he sits in his Lawrence Hall office. His office symbolizes that passion, too. It's a cozy space filled

with books and pictures, and the lighting is much like the glow of a fireplace.

The art and multimedia professor is more than a teacher: He is an artist, a designer, a painter and performer whose works appear in almost every medium — canvas and film, print and theater.

For Johnson, art is more than an expression of beauty — it's an avenue he uses to put the world in perspective. For him, art is his tool for commenting on social issues and allowing his students to do the same.

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Associate Art Professor Leon Johnson, who teaches University art and multimedia courses, gives an animated lecture to his ART 101 students.