

## College zeros in on new budget

Scott Starnes  
The Print

In an effort to minimize expenses, the College may implement the zero-based budgeting system which is now to most academic institutions nationally," said Kent Heaton, College faculty president.

According to Heaton, zero-based budgeting has been thought on as national movement by numerous academic institutions in an effort to alleviate unnecessary expenses.

The College is very concerned as to how the taxpayer's money is spent. Since the College is dependent upon the taxpayer's taxes, we feel responsible in seeing to it that the money is not squandered," Heaton said.

By implementing the zero-based budgeting plan each department would have to perform a "checks and balances" type of planning which would indicate where the main priority expenses are located and how important they are to the immediate program, Heaton said.

Unlike "padded budgeting," which covers excessive expenditures by increasing the budget ceiling, the zero-based budgeting requires each department to evaluate its entire list

of expenses and appropriate its limited funding to the areas of major importance, Heaton said.

Hypothetically, if the College's total operational expenses came to a million dollars, last year, the zero-based budgeting system would only grant 90 percent of the last years total expenses to each department for the following year, or \$900,000, Heaton said. This means that any expenses which would exceed the 90 percent limit, by any given College department, would have to be evaluated by the department chairperson and then be assessed as a "decision packet," he said.

Decision packets would be ranked according to their importance.

"A certain department may have a list of 100 decision packets which they feel are mandatory to the functioning of their department. But many of the other College departments may believe that their decisions packets are similarly as justifiable and should be given proper attention," Heaton said.

In effect, each department head must list and present decision packets to their respective division chairperson. Because there will be more decision packets than the

budget ceiling will allow, some will have to be "skimmed off," Heaton said. "There's going to be a lot of arguments during these chair meetings as to why various decision packets were skimmed off," Heaton predicted.

But the thinning out process will not end at the division level, Heaton said. "Each division chairperson must present a narrowed list of decision packets to the respective dean. From there the decision packets will be further thinned out so that the most important ones will be granted the funds."

The idea of zero-based budgeting has not been unanimously declared effective yet for academic institutions, Heaton said. It is designed to bring an end to many possibly unnecessary expenses the College is faced with annually. Causing a decrease in spending will make the taxpayer realize that the College is truly concerned with how their dollars are spent, Heaton said.

Heaton and two other representatives from the College will be traveling to Phoenix, Ariz., Thursday and Friday to participate in a nationally attended zero-based budgeting seminar. "Zero-based budgeting is a responsive system to both the community and the taxpayer," he added.



College student tries his hand at welding in a new, multi-faceted course, "Industrial Orientation." See story on Page 3. Photo by Jeffrey Buser-Molatore.

## Solons speak on current trends

Happie Thacker  
The Print

Student representatives from CCOSAC Community College's of Oregon Association and Commissions met a productive day last Friday, Jan. 26, at the legislative workshop sponsored by Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

The day spent at the State Capitol gave students an opportunity to sit in on meetings with the house and senate as well as to their individual representatives concerning legislation pertinent to students.

The morning began with a meeting with Clay Meyers, State Treasurer. He answered questions concerning the Governor's tax bill and other matters before the legislature that could affect students. He

also answered general questions concerning how the legislature worked.

CCOSAC members then sat in on the House of Representatives and a Senate meeting before leaving for lunch with Senator Mark Hatfield.

Hatfield spoke at length on the energy situation before opening the floor to questions. He was, for the most part, pessimistic about legislation that will cost the government money without demonstrable economic benefits. This includes financial aid and child care bills that may be presented this session.

Hatfield attacked military spending as "inflationary" and expressed his displeasure with the current move away from spending for "human resource programs" that will benefit the general public but will only provide economic benefits that are hard to measure in terms of

dollars such as child care.

Other student leaders with specific goals in Salem were Mike McCarty, student president from the College, who met with several legislators to discuss marijuana reform, and Pat Reinhardt, student president from Portland Community College who discussed pending child care legislation with representative Gretchen Kafoury. Reinhardt was also concerned with financial aid regulations that make it difficult for students who are supporting themselves but living with their parents to receive needed help.

The rest of the students were free to sit in on committee meetings that met throughout the afternoon to discuss matters such as National Direct Student Loans. The afternoon also gave students the opportunity to see their legislature at work and to become familiar

with the capital itself.

The Board of President's meeting on Saturday was one of the more productive meetings of the year. Several matters that have been on the agenda since last summer were taken care of and it was pointed out that all but four of the goals set at the summer workshop had been accomplished.

Two of the matters that were taken care of were funding for CCOSAC and affiliation with the United States Student Association.

It was decided that since most of the matters CCOSAC deals with do not require large amounts of funding that the current method of receiving money by donation was adequate and that there is enough money in the budget at this time to finish the year.

After a report from Margaret Bender, Oregon Student Lob-

by representative, concerning OSU's dissatisfaction with USSA, it was decided that CCOSAC would not affiliate itself with that organization at this time.

The major areas that need to be worked on for this year are block booking, developing a format for leadership workshops and helping PCC.

It was also decided that lobbying for this year would be confined to letter writing campaigns concentrating on child care legislation and insuring funding for community colleges.

Bresnahan presented the Board of President's with a list of six points on which to base arguments for continued financial support of community colleges. He suggested that individuals rewrite these points, changing the wording and the order, to make the letters as individual as possible.

