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Bowling Green State University

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Foresight leaves University better prepared to absorb budget cuts

The University is bracing for another blow to its already tight budget following announcement by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management on Dec. 30 of a series of state spending cuts.

The cuts, part of Governor George Voinovich's goal to balance the state's fiscal year budget, will reduce the University's instructional subsidy by four percent and other higher education line items by six percent. Student financial aid will not be touched.

The OBM blamed the budget cuts on a state revenue shortfall of $314 million and higher-than-expected costs in Medicaid and Aid to Dependent Children.

Dr. Christopher Dalton, vice president for planning and budgeting, said the governor's action will result in an approximate $2.4 million reduction in state subsidies for Bowling Green. The University had set aside approximately three percent or about $1.8 million in anticipation of a budget cut announcement.

Those funds would have been used for a mid-year salary increase if there had been no budget cuts.

Dalton said that the remaining approximate $600,000 will be recovered by leaving positions vacant and through reductions in the current year's operating budgets.

Further clarifications of the state budget reductions are expected from the OBM and the Ohio Board of Regents in early January.

The six percent cut in higher education line items will affect the University's Canadian studies program and the Center for Governmental Research and Public Services.

In a Dec. 27 letter to faculty and staff, President Olscamp announced the reinstatement of a hiring freeze for vacant and new positions for all employee groups.

He said the freeze is likely to stay in effect throughout the 1992-1993 fiscal year unless there is a restoration of budget funds or a raising of tuition caps that would generate needed revenue for previous levels of operation and for salary increases.

He said that it has been the University's top priority to preserve full-time jobs but added that further reductions in state subsidies in 1992 may necessitate some layoffs.

Olscamp noted that there were other places and areas that are being hurt.

Continued on page 2

Regents' capital plan recommends more than $19 million for BGSU

The Ohio Board of Regents announced a $488 million capital plan for the next biennium at its Dec. 20 meeting.

The recommendations include $19.3 million for the main campus and $338,000 for Firelands. Also, the Regents suggested that $2.9 million be spent by Bowling Green, the University of Toledo and the Medical College of Ohio for a library warehouse to ease overcrowding of book storage facilities in the main libraries of those campuses.

The Regents' capital plan calls for the University to receive $2.9 million for basic renovations, $3.6 million for Phase II of the classroom building, $5.2 million for Phase II of Eppley Complex, $5.7 million to raze and rebuild South Hall and $1.9 million for renovations in the heating plant, including constructing a tunnel along Ridge Street adjacent to the future classroom building.

The amount recommended for the University is at or slightly above normal capital plan figures, Robert Martin, vice president for operations, said. He cautioned that the recommendations must be approved by both the governor and legislature and that the final capital budget is expected to be approved later this spring.

The first phase of the classroom building is funded at $9.9 million and construction is scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall. The second phase funding will add technical laboratory and conferencing space to the building.

Martin said three factors may influence whether the capital budget is approved by the legislature. They include consideration of whether there are sufficient funds to support the operating budget for the current year, projections for the second half of the biennium and the political ramifications of cutting operating budgets while funding capital improvement budgets.

Now is a good time for capital improvement projects because bonds can be issued at lower rates and construction bids are low, Martin said.

Trustees approve changes with SLS, funds to complete Founders designs

The Board of Trustees approved changes in the University's relationship with Student Legal Services, took another step toward the renovation of Founders Quadrangle and recognized BGSU athletic teams for outstanding performances at its Dec. 20 meeting.

Two agreements with Student Legal Services which make its employees more clearly independent contractors, not employees of the University, were approved. The first agreement defines payment to the University for administrative costs and the lease of office space to SLS. The second agreement called for cooperative efforts on the part of SLS in ensuring that its present and former employees file amended tax returns.

The trustees also approved the expenditure of funds necessary to complete the design of a renovated Founders residence hall, including the preparation of construction documents and receipt of proposals from construction management consultants to provide services for a "fast track" construction management process. The renovations include a modernized dining facility and reconstructed living areas.

Personnel changes since the Oct. 18 meeting were approved, including tenure to Dr. Robert DeBard, dean of the Firelands College.

During the report of the finance committee, the following actions were taken:

- Approved the allocation of funds for the 1992-1993 Auxiliary Repair/Maintenance/Improvement projects totaling $2,155,034.
- Approved proposed changes in the Board bylaws and the governance documents regarding Board of Trustees' authority.
- Approved grants and/or contracts in the amount of $4.3 million for the months of October and November 1991.

The Board also passed three resolutions honoring the football, volleyball and soccer teams for outstanding play during the fall semester.

President Olscamp reported that as of Dec. 20 the University had received 4,458 applications from freshmen seeking admission for the 1992 fall semester, a decrease of approximately six percent. Registrations for the main campus in spring 1992 are down 2.5 percent. The decreases were forecast based on lower numbers of high school graduates. "We are now almost at the bottom of that academic trough," Olscamp said, referring to a dip in the population of high school graduates. In the Graduate College there has been a four percent increase in applications.

Olscamp highlighted grants received by Dr. John Sampen, music, from the National Endowment for the Arts; the
Faculty Senate debates salary recommendations

Discussion about faculty salaries dominated the Dec. 17 executive session of the Faculty Senate.

Five senate committees, responsible for the budget, the central administration, the central administration, the central administration, and the central administration, were in existence by the mid-1950s. The Faculty Senate, which includes the central administration, the central administration, the central administration, and the central administration, was created in 1932. The resolution was divided into three sections:

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Wilson book examines educating children with behavior disorders

Dr. Frank Wilson, special education specialist, and three colleagues at the University of Delaware have published a book titled, "The Behavior Disorders." The book examines the educational and behavior problems of children, and the authors believe the book will be useful to teachers, parents, and professionals in the field of special education.

"In general, a behavior disorder is a maladaptive behavior that interferes with the learning of educational programs," Wilson said. "The authors believe that the book will be useful to teachers, parents, and professionals in the field of special education."

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