OU, U-M, OCC gain a bit in Blanchard budget

Area colleges and universities are looking forward to increased state appropriations this October. But their presidents say the increase called for in Gov. James Blanchard's budget mean only that the schools will be at levels they were at before executive budget cuts of the past few years.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY Vice President Robert McGeary said OU will probably have to raise tultion de-

will procasely have to raise tellion despite the increases.

Blanchard's first budget shows a 12.5 percent increase over current spending, with the largest increases going to primary and secondary education, colleges, mental health and social services.

His \$5.32 billion budget would match the state's 1972 budget if there had been no inflation, according to state

The new budget calls for a \$55 mil-ilon increase for higher education with the schools getting increases of 7.5 to 9

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percent. The state's big three universities — University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State — will receive 9 percent, while the smaller schools will receive 7.5 percent.

schools will receive 7.5 percent.

1.M PRESIDENT Harold T. Shapiro said he was "gratified" that the budget recognizes the "special mission of the University of Michigan." But he also noted 85 million had been cut from the U-M Ann Arbor budget by executive or der previous to this year.

During the final Milliken years, aid to colleges and universities was drastically trimmed.

Blanchard said he recommended the increases to the state's colleges "to

Increases to the state's colleges "to lessen pressure for future tuition increases." The school presently charge among the highest tuition rates in the country.

country.

McGCARY, OU vice president of finance and administration, said OU is grateful for a 7.5 percent increase but added the increase failed to put the school in a position if was before executive budget cuts.

"We have so much catching up to do

because there have been so many executive order cuts during the past four years that we haven't gained anything," he said.

"We were hoping to get a 8.5 percent increase which would add a couple hundred thousand dollars to our budget.
"But at this level, we'll have to have a tuition increase. I don't know how high but we'll have to have one," he added.

The 7.5 percent increase will mean about \$1.54 million for OU. The current budget is \$2.05 million.

"We've done some shuffling of programs, we've made some cuts in education and put more emphasis on high tect." McGeary said.

OARLAND COMMUNITY College received a 6.5 percent increase for the '83-84 year, which adds \$569,000 to its \$8.7 million budget.
"It was a little more than we expected," said college President Robert Roelofs.

Had OCC not received the increase it would have dipped into its savings account once again.

Roelofs said the money will be used to continue existing programs, includ-ing 27 new courses designed in the re-

"A good bit goes to that and modifying the high tech and allied health programs," he added.

MEA lauds budget hike

Geiger's statement praised Bianchard for "continuing to stress both his commitment to bring jobs to Michigan and to return public education to its time-boorsed role of preparing citizens for the future."



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