

University shorted on state funds

Oakland University should be expecting an enrollment growth, not a decline, OU president Joseph E. Champagne said.

And he told a legislative committee that the regional university has been under-funded by the state compared to the other 12 comparable, four-year colleges.

Law school honors judge

The New England School of Law in Boston has awarded Oakland County's Steven N. Andrews, chief judge of the circuit court, an honorary doctor of laws degree at its 1983 commencement.

The New England School recognized Andrews for the "friendship and concern he has demonstrated to the school's graduates" and for his own legal career.

Andrews has twice served as chief judge of the Oakland circuit and in 1979-80 was a one-man grand juror for Oakland County. He chairs an ad hoc committee on judicial tenure of the Michigan Judges Association.

Prior to becoming a judge, Andrews was city attorney for Clawson, president of the Oakland County Bar Association, and union attorney for the Troy Police Officers Association, the Troy Command Officers Association and the Clawson POA.

"We do not have a complete response to the growing dilemma of tuition increases," Champagne said in lengthy testimony recently to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations. OU recently raised its tuitions 10-15 percent of the coming school year.

CHAMPAGNE said that while enrollments statewide may fall in the years ahead, "southeastern Michigan presents a unique set of circumstances which could cause enrollment stabilization."

"For the past two years, Oakland University was the only state university which showed an increase in enrollment of new students who are entering college for the first time."

One reason is the influx of "non-traditional students who, by reason of a rapidly emerging technological society, will either seek a college education or return to complete or upgrade their collegiate education," he said.

OU currently enrolls 9,300 full-time equated students.

Another reason is that OU serves a commuter clientele. "More than half of the residents of Michigan live within commuting distance of Oakland University," Champagne said.

ALTHOUGH there may be no great decline, Champagne predicted major enrollment shifts, and growth in engineering, computer science, business administration and the health sciences.

"However, because of the inadequacy of funding, we have had to curtail enrollment in our highest growth areas, such as engineering, computer science and business administration," Champagne said, predicting a slight overall decline in enrollment.



Joseph Champagne
OU shorted

OU HAS been treated less well than other colleges among the 12 regional schools, Champagne complained.

Its enrollment has grown 12 percent since 1977, while others have declined, but its share of state funding has remained stable, resulting in "an enormous erosion in the amount of revenue available per student."

Champagne made these comparisons:

• In 1977 OU received \$1,625 in state funds per full-time equivalent student while the state average for comparable schools was \$1,637, a difference of barely \$12.

• But currently OU's state appropriation is \$2,144 compared to \$2,395 for the others, a difference of \$250. (His comparison excluded the so-called Big Three: University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.)

HE CALLED on the legislature to increase funding to colleges so that the level of tuition could be 25 percent of total revenues and state aid raised to 75 percent.

Currently, OU has a \$35 million budget with about nearly \$20 million, a little more than half, coming from the legislature.

"In Michigan," said Champagne, "we are at the 40-60 ratio and should strive through adequate state funding to return to the 25-75 ratio model that existed here not too long ago."



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