

OU likes 5.6% state aid increase but says tuition hike is still possible

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By Teri Banas
staff writer

A \$1.5 million increase in state aid to Oakland University may not be enough to ward off a tuition hike next year, said Joseph Champagne, university president.

Responding to Gov. James Blanchard's state aid projections for 1988-89, Champagne said OU fiscal planners will be going over the recommended aid package of \$29.4 million in the next few days to consider whether a tuition hike is necessary.

"Right now I don't know if we're going to raise tuitions or whether we'll be able to (keep them down) through cost containment, or if even increased enrollments will be realized to balance the budget," he said.

The governor's recommended allocations were released Tuesday along with K-12 state aid figures. The budget represents a 5.5 percent increase for public colleges and universities in the state's new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

THE INCREASE for colleges and universities, however, is considerably less than this year's double-digit increase, which brought with it a tuition freeze at most schools.

The reason for reduced funding this year is the planned rollback in the state income tax to its original 4.6 percent level, said state sources.

Sources in the state Office of Management and Budget say the rollback will cost \$400 million statewide in a recommended \$6 billion state budget.

"We had more money last year so we were able to give more money out," said an assistant to OMB director Robert Nafaty. "It's going to be a zero-growth budget."

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— Joseph Champagne
Oakland U. president

AT OAKLAND University, the recommended 5.6 percent increase accounts for about \$1.5 million more than the current allocation. State aid at the school amounts to 60-65 percent of the university's general fund budget, with the balance supported by student payments, said Champagne.

"It's disappointing that it's not as high as this year (when it rose by 11 percent) but I know the governor's given education the highest priority he can."

OU presently charges \$48 per credit hour. The university this year recorded a full-time enrollment gain of 250 students for a fall enrollment of 12,580.

OU has not had a tuition increase for two years, since the 1983-84 school year.

"We're sure as heck going to try to keep down tuitions next year," Champagne said.

AT OAKLAND Community College, the recommended state aid is \$12.6 million, up by \$782,600

over this year. OCC's recommended 6.6 percent increase is higher than the state average of 5.6 percent. Neither college president Stephen Nicholson nor assistant president Tony Jarson were available to comment on that school's standing for next year.

The governor's recommendations must first go to the state House appropriations committee, the full House and then on to the state Senate. The process is usually completed in June or July, before the lawmakers' summer recess.

Recommendations in state aid at other area colleges and universities include:

- Wayne State University is recommended to receive \$20.1 million in aid, up 5.3 percent or \$7.56 million over this year.

- Wayne County Community College is recommended to receive \$20.15 million, up 5.3 percent or about \$1 million.

- Schoolcraft College, a community college with campuses in Livonia and Garden City, is recommended to receive \$6.65 million, a 5.7 percent increase or \$339,000.

- The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor is slated to receive \$22.8 million in aid, up 5.8 percent or \$12.2 million.

- The University of Michigan-Dearborn is recommended to receive \$14.2 million in state aid, a 5 percent increase or \$690,723 more than this year.

- Michigan State University is slated to receive \$218.6 million, a 5.4 percent increase or \$11.2 million more over this year.



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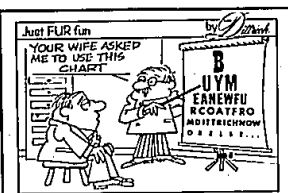
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