

College tuitions to rise? OU chief says it depends on formula

Tuition will likely rise at many of Michigan's 15 colleges and universities this fall. The reason is Gov. James Blanchard's proposal for a smaller increase in state funding for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

"Everybody got a 3.4 percent increase. That's not a lot," said Oakland University president Joseph Champagne.

"The \$15 million which the governor proposed for some type of formula (for growth schools) is encouraging. The questions I have are: How is that going to be spent, and is that enough?"

OVERALL, Blanchard's budget for four-year schools is \$1.1 billion, up a total of 5.3 percent. That breaks down to:

- 3.4 percent for inflation.
- \$15 million for growth schools (including OU).
- \$26 million for the "research excellence fund," of which OU gets a slice.

Blanchard recommended OU get a general increase of \$1 million, to a new total of \$50.89 million, plus whatever the \$15 million formula and research fund yield.

"I'm very happy the governor has recognized enrollment changes," said Champagne, "but I don't think \$15 million is enough. Maybe we need to look at correction being made over a couple or three years."

WILL OU HAVE to raise tuition?

"That 3.4 increase is so far below what any of us projected," Champagne replied, "that we don't even have computer projections. If we can get it up to 6 percent, then any tuition increase would be a lot more reasonable."

"In the last 10 years, OU enrollment has grown 8 percent while the state system declined 11.5 percent. The governor said (to growth schools), 'Here's \$15 million, and we'll give you the formula later.' 'If the four or five growth schools get an equitable formula, then it's possible we wouldn't need any tuition increase at all.'"

OU's current average tuition is \$1,768, about \$14 under the state average of \$1,782.

Blanchard said he'd like universities to keep tuition below the rate of inflation. But he added that the lower increase kept him from repeating last year's demand that tuition increases be held to the inflation rate. Last year he recommended a 5 percent increase.

TUITION INCREASES at the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University will be at least 4.3 percent, officials said.

A University of Michigan spokesman, Richard Kennedy, vice president for government relations, said that based on Blanchard's proposal, he thought tuition on the Ann Arbor campus would increase.

Tuition this school year for freshmen

men and sophomores who are residents is \$2,476. Kennedy said the 1987-88 increase would be at least 4.3 percent and less than 10 percent.

Eastern Michigan University also will likely increase tuition at least 4.3 percent, said Roy Wilbanks, vice president for university relations.

"With the governor's recommendation, it's going to make it very difficult to maintain a tuition level under the inflationary costs," he said. "It's probably going to make it necessary for us to look at capping enrollment."

EMU raised tuition to \$1,563 for this year after a two-year freeze, Wilbanks said.

WAYNE STATE University froze tuition for three years before raising it 2.5 percent in the winter semester. In-state freshmen and sophomores pay \$1,805 per year. Upperclassmen pay \$2,112.

But WSU president David Adamany said another increase would depend on how the additional \$15 million is allocated.

Michigan State University board members have not discussed tuition, said board chairman Malcolm Dade.

MSU last year added a \$1-per-credit-hour fee to help pay for its new sports center, which made the increase 2.3 percent after 1985's 2.4 percent rise. Tuition is \$2,119 for in-state freshmen and sophomores and \$2,322 for juniors and seniors.

AT SAGINAW Valley State College, an increase is inevitable, said Robert Vien, vice president for academic affairs.

"The only thing we don't know is the magnitude," he said. Tuition is about \$1,700, up 3.8 percent from last year.

Ferris State College board members will consider a tuition increase, said Sid Sytma, director of institutional planning. Ferris has frozen tuition and fees for four years at \$1,671, he said.

"This is the year probably we're going to have to change that (the freeze)," he said. "It's unfortunate and certainly not our desire."

GRAND VALLEY State College tuition is up 4.28 percent to \$1,566 after three years of freezes, said Arthur Hills, executive assistant to the president.

Hills said the board has not discussed another tuition increase, but that one is possible.

Officials said other schools undecided on a tuition increase and their tuitions this year are Michigan Technological University, \$1,878; Northern Michigan University, \$1,513; and Central Michigan University, \$1,569.

This story was compiled from Associated-Press accounts and a staff interview with the OU president.

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