

## OU's tuition up, but not as much as some

Oakland University's percentage of tuition and fee increases over the past five years is second lowest among the state's public universities, a new report shows.

The statistics are included in a report compiled for the OU Board of Trustees Nov. 5 from OU and state sources.

"The Board of Trustees has been committed to maintaining access to this university and to providing an excellent education. The report shows we are succeeding. Our high quality and reasonable cost have made us highly competitive," says OU President Sandra Packard.

Statistics from the annual reports of the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, show OU tuition and fee increases over the past five years averaging 7.93 percent for in-state students. The percentage ranks OU fourteenth lowest among the 15 public universities, Packard notes.

"Every public university is under pressure to maintain quality and balance the budget in the face of stable state revenues and increasing costs," Packard says.

She admits that "there is no question that students are being asked to pay more toward the cost of their education now than they have in previous decades, but Oakland University and its Board of Trustees have kept those increases to a minimum, even in the face of tight budgets."

That tuition restraint, academic reputation and location continue to be strengths.

### How to develop listening skills

Oakland University's Continuum Center will offer a workshop to develop listening skills from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, at the Auburn Hills Signature Inn.

"Learning How To Really Listen: Using a Powerful Communication Skill" will focus on increasing listening effectiveness everywhere, from a business meeting to a family matter.

Roberta Dailey will lead participants through the multiple aspects of expert listening.

Fee is \$79. Registrations will be taken through Tuesday, Nov. 17. Call 370-3033.

ue to pay dividends for OU, Packard says. Statistics for the entering class of freshmen continue the high standards exhibited by those of past years. "We have not diluted quality for numbers," she says. An average freshman GPA at OU is 3.2 and the ACT composite average is 22.1.

University officials point out that OU recomputes all high school grades for its applicants, ranking only academic courses in computing a high school GPA.

"The next few years are going to be difficult ones financially for Michigan's public universities and students can expect further tuition increases, but OU is examining every avenue to streamline and cut costs while maintaining our quality," Packard reports. "We want to keep a university education in reach of our students."

## Commissioners consider pay hike

By PAT MURPHY

STAFF WRITER

Hard times — and possibly voter discontent — is prompting Oakland County commissioners to do some soul searching over increasing their own salary.

In budget hearings commissioners have already tentatively approved pay increases for most of Oakland's 4,500 employees, generally between 3 and 6 percent.

Despite some discussion, however, commissioners have thus far failed to approve any pay hike for themselves. They will likely discuss the matter later this month.

Commissioner Marilyn E. Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills, chairwoman of the county board's personnel committee, said raising their own salary is generally a touchy decision.

Some feel it's warranted in

light of other county employees getting comparable pay hikes, she said. Others say commissioners should set an example, especially in tight budget years.

"Some commissioners feel it would be easier to hold the line on spending — even demand cuts — if we set a good example," said the Bloomfield Hills Republican.

Technically commissioners can't vote to raise their own salaries. State law does allow, however, an outgoing board of commissioners to vote on increases for their replacements.

"So, if commissioners are going to raise salaries, they must do it before Dec. 31," Gosling said.

Commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D-Southfield, said it's always tough for any elected official to vote on raising their own pay. There are usually all kinds



of figures — such as those on the cost of living index — to justify pay hikes for commissioners, he said. "But it's hard for

anybody to be objective about their own pay."

The figure most mentioned as a possible raise is 3 percent — the same amount the most county employees will get Jan. 1. If it's approved, commissioner salaries would go from \$20,964 to \$21,593.

The dollar increase would be \$629 a year, an amount that is hardly excessive by most standards. Yet some commissioners are concerned even 3 percent would cause an outcry given the mood of voters.

"It's not much," said commissioner Don Jensen, R-Birmingham. "But it's causing some soul searching."

Among those who think any raise is unjustified is commissioner Teresa Krause, D-Troy, who lost her bid for re-election to another incumbent, Charles E. Palmer of Clawson.

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