

STATE LEGISLATURE APPROVES LAW SCHOOL BUDGET INCREASE

The 1975-76 Legislative Assembly has authorized a \$226,000 program improvement budget of the Law School to supplement the existing base budget and resources fee funds over the next two fiscal years.

The additional funds will finance new positions in the faculty (2.70 FTE) and library professional (1.0 FTE) staffs, classified/secretarial personnel (4.0 FTE), and the purchase of library books during the next two years, according to Dean Chapin Clark.

The program improvement budget approval follows an intensive and determined effort of law school officials before the University administration, the State Board of Higher Education, the Governor's budget office, and the Ways and Means committees of the state Legislature commencing a year ago.

Dean Clark stressed that the program budget though labeled "improvement" actually represents an amount which the law school administration feels is absolutely necessary to maintain the quality of the academic instruction and library at present levels. He stated that the improvement increment is assumed to be incorporated in subsequent base budget figures for succeeding biennial appropriations.

Dean Clark described the struggle for more funds by pointing out the significant changes and evolution of the Law School since 1966 when enrollment was approximately 200 students. At that time, faculty and the dean initiated planning to expand the legal studies program at Oregon to its present dimensions. The choice then, Dean Clark noted, was to respond to an anticipated demand for persons trained in the legal profession or succumb to the status of a "Lane County" law school.

The university administration, State Board of Higher Education and Legislature concurred with plans for expansion and enrollment increase to 500 students. Construction of the law school building was approved by voters in a 1968 statewide bonding authorization (Dean Clark noted that students at the time organized parades and campaigned extensively to win voter support).

Enrollment climbed to 364 students in 1970 as the faculty expanded and the school moved to its present location (the first Law School building constructed by the public for that purpose in the 110 years of statehood).

As the law school administration geared up to fulfill expansion plans it was struck simultaneously by a drastic increase in applicants -- which peaked in 1972 with 2009 applicants for 150 positions in the entering class -- and a severe financial crisis throughout the state university system.

The Law School was caught halfway through its expansionary program mandated by the construction of the law center building with state funding which fell far short of adequate support of the library and academic disciplines, according to Dean Clark.

As the school weathered the funding crisis, its accreditation was put to the test during an October, 1971 visit by the joint inspection team of the American Bar Association/Association of American Law Schools.

The report of the inspection team described the school's strengths -- "the faculty is highly competent, the student body is most qualified, and the physical plant is excellent" -- but also stressed "the law library remains the most troubling part of the school and its only really negative aspect."

Specifically, the accreditation report found an excellent but highly overworked professional staff in critical need of clerical assistance, deficiencies in treatises and documentary sources with minimal budget resources to acquire books other than those budgeted for serials and continuations, and absence of cataloguing and classification of the collection. Secretarial and clerical support for the faculty and administration were also described as inadequate.

Thus, "To avoid a crisis in the operating budget and possible loss of accreditation, law students have been taxed (beginning in 1973) for special resources fees ... earmarked by the State Board of Higher Education for law school use, especially the law library," according to the 1975 program improvement budget request.

The law school resources fee (\$300 annual surcharge per student -- plus \$100 deposit paid by entering first year students) represents a significant contribution to the academic support and library budgets, totaling \$264,000 for the next two fiscal years. It augments the base budget and now-approved "improvement" fund through the financing of 4.50 FTE classified positions (such as admissions and placement), over \$18,000 for services and supplies, 1.0 professional and 3.0 FTE classified staff in the law library, and over \$56,000 for book purchases.

The state board authorized the fee for three years, 1973-4 through 1975-6, and the fee will expire at the end of the current academic year unless continuation is approved.

The law school administration will soon initiate a series of open meetings and committee discussions to hear student sentiment and recommendations concerning the necessity of a resources fee extension and appropriate amounts, Dean Clark stated.

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BASKETBALL TICKETS

Law student desiring combination athletic tickets to Oregon football and basketball games must sign-up during fall term registration for a university-wide draw, according to Incidental Fee Committee chairer Jane Aiken.

All vicarious thrill-seeking students eager to witness Coach Dick Harter and his Kamekazi Kids in action at the PIT will receive tickets to at least some of the games this Fall, Ms. Aiken emphasized. The actual number of game tickets any one student receives from the combination pass will depend on the total number of students participating in the draw.

A combination coupon book will replace last year's athletic cards and the number of specific basketball game passes per book (and which games randomly determined by computer) out of a possible 15 events will be ascertained by total student seats available per game divided by the number of students entering the draw.

For example, the IFC estimates 4000 seats (main floor plus newly-constructed balconies) will be allocated to students. If 6000 students sign-up for combination tickets, each student so registering will receive a coupon book with ducats for 10 of the 15 basketball games scheduled, specific games to vary randomly.

Controversies over the number of seats allocated to students and procedures for obtaining the season passes and individual game tickets provoked considerable debate in IFC hearings last year and led to lengthy negotiations and the proposed reforms, according to Aiken.

A ruling by the Fire Marshall forced a reduction in the number of seats available to students on the main floor of Mac Court. In response to the demand for more seats, the Athletic Dept pressed forward with plans to enlarge seating capacity by constructing balconies on the north and south ends of the PIT, to be financed largely through donations.

The IFC insisted that the Athletic Dept provide students enough seats in the new balconies to compensate for those lost on the main floor. The total of seats assigned to students will be at least 4000 and perhaps as many as 4150, Aiken stated.

Under the IFC proposal, no student tickets will be sold 24 hours prior to each game compared to last year's practice of releasing 1000 tickets to those willing to wait in long lines.

The IFC tentatively plans to provide reserved seats with its coupon book concept for ticket allocation. Students will receive a temporary football game pass while the coupon books are assembled and printed out-of-state. Also to be established are procedures to facilitate ticket buy-backs and transferability among students, according to Aiken.

As in past years, students must purchase the combination pass with football season tickets to receive the coveted basketball ducats. Athletic Dept representatives and the IFC are still discussing whether to include minor sports on the combination pass or to allow students the option of purchasing individual tickets or season passes to other varsity athletic events.

Total cost of the combination pass will depend upon the exact number of basketball tickets awarded to each coupon book holder. The rate students will pay per event remains the same as last year -- \$1.50/football and \$1.25/basketball -- with a possible surcharge if minor sports are included.

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LAW SCHOOL BUDGET (CON'T)

The program improvement budget roughly approximates the student contribution through the resources fee. Elimination of all of the fee-collected funding will return the overall Law School budget to the "maintenance" level and nullify much of the qualitative increase in support of the library, personnel and services for students, faculty, and administration, according to Dean Clark.

The upcoming debate over renewal of the authorization to collect the student resources fee will force the school to define some balance between the surcharge burden now shouldered by students and availability of funds to improve academic programs and the library.

-- Dick Springer

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RECORD NUMBER PASS BAR

A record 438 persons passed the Oregon Bar Exam this year. In 1974, 383 new attorneys were admitted to the bar, and the figure was 390 for 1973 and 330 in 1972.

The 438 men and women who passed accounted for 83 per cent of the 527 persons who took the test. Because of the increasing number of applications, the bar exam will be given twice a year starting February 25-26 1976.

Students taking the exam had a passage rate of 84 percent, while attorneys passed at a rate of 63 percent. Percentage of students passing according to schools was as follows: U. of Oregon: 89%, Willamette: 95%, Lewis and Clark: 79%. About 82% of the students from out of state schools passed.

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SBA ELECTION TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER FROM
---10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. ---