

University budget cut; Student fees increased

Boise State will implement several cost-saving measures, increase student fees and reduce budgets to accommodate an estimated \$9.34 million shortfall in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The plan drafted by the university's Executive Budget Committee was approved by President Charles Ruch in early March. The plan won't be put in place until the State Board of Education allocates the higher education budget and votes on student fee proposals in April.

The plan was drafted in response to the state-mandated 10.1 percent reduction in the university's general account budget. One of the key components is a proposed 12 percent fee increase, which will result in approximately \$4.34 million in additional revenue. If approved, Boise State's current \$1,334 per semester fee would increase by \$160.

The remaining \$5 million shortfall will be made up through budget reductions and savings measures. Boise State will reduce its work force by 41 positions— 22 faculty and 19 staff. Of those, 10 will be laid off. The other 31 are positions that are currently vacant or will be vacant due to retirements.

An analysis of the budget reduction and its impact on the university is on Page 10.

BSU Foundation's refinancing of bonds saves state \$900,000

A second refinancing of the bonds used in 1988 to build Boise State's Engineering/Technology Building will result in a savings of almost \$653,000 to the state of Idaho.

The bonds, which are secured by a lease agreement with the university and the State Board of Education, were initially refinanced in 1991 resulting in savings of \$240,000.

"In addition to providing a first-class academic facility the BSU Foundation is pleased that its fiscal management has resulted in a savings of almost \$900,000," says Foundation president Allen Dykman.

Spring enrollment largest ever

Growth continues

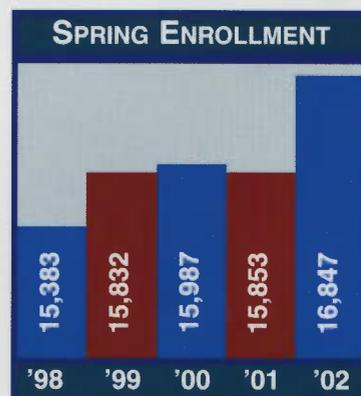
Boise State's rapid growth pace quickened this spring semester when enrollment jumped 6 percent over the previous year, the largest increase in more than 10 years.

With 16,847 students, Boise State set a new spring record, exceeding last spring's enrollment by almost 1,000 students.

Enrollment typically drops from fall to spring semesters, but this spring the difference is only 314 students.

"We can accommodate our growth this semester and are now focusing our attention on several management strategies for the summer and fall terms so we can maintain quality during a period of budget reductions," says President Charles Ruch.

Boise State's Canyon County Center enrollment grew by 33 percent, with 1,452 students taking classes this spring. More than 1,100 students registered for Internet and computer-based courses, a 65 percent increase over last spring. Applied technology enrollment increased 11 percent.



The statistics also indicate students are taking larger class loads, with the number of full-time students up 12 percent while part-time student enrollment decreased by 1 percent.

The strong enrollment figures may be the result of a record number of new freshmen who attended last fall and an increased number of new freshmen who entered this spring, says Mark Wheeler, dean of enrollment services. In addition, university enrollments often increase during slow economic cycles when people are looking for new skills or additional training.

"We are pleased we can assist those who may be affected by the recession. This is an area where higher education can help individuals get back into the work force and help rebuild our state's economy," says Ruch.

Environmental degree begins

In response to growing interest in careers that deal with the environment, Boise State University is offering a new bachelor of arts degree program in environmental studies.

The interdisciplinary program, which begins fall semester, includes a basic background in mathematics, science, social sciences and environmental policy. The degree differs from science and engineering degrees because of its focus on communication, critical thinking and problem solving.

According to Martin Schimpf, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the program's coordinator, the new degree should provide an excellent preparation for law school or for graduate school in public policy, the social sciences and the humanities, as well as for jobs with environmental organizations, governmental agencies and industry.