



FOCUS

Volume I, No. 2

The Monthly Newsmagazine Of Boise State University

Boise, Idaho

October

BSU Now 11,241

After a month of signals from crowded classrooms, waiting lines for dorm facilities and longer lines at food concessions and the bookstore, Boise State University confirmed the obvious-enrollment for fall term, 1975 has leaped again to top the eleven thousand head-count mark for the first time in its history. **BSU enrollment has increased 12 per cent over the fall term of 1974, the figures show.**

Still rated "unofficial" until final auditing by the state board of education, the historic figures were turned over to that agency by Registrar Leland Mercy Monday.

H&W Buys Advice

by Bob C. Hall

Armed with a \$41-thousand offer from the Department of Health & Welfare, experts at BSU's School of Business are set to start a major management development project for that agency, this week.

Set to run from October 1 of this year until June 30, 1976, the project will bring BSU's business experts together with H&W's statewide management team, says School of Business Dean Charles Lein.

Most veteran of the initial surveyors who plan to spend the next month interviewing H&W officials statewide is Coordinator Al Ferguson.

He has coordinated similar, smaller projects for the Department of Employment and the City of Boise Police department. Silver-haired, low-key conversationalist Ferguson is a former Colorado hospital administrator with 35 years in the business consulting field.

While Ferguson acknowledges the public relations hazards of analysis work in the controversial Health & Welfare world, he sees the project as a positive linkup between BSU and H&W.

To verify his hopes, Ferguson displays a strong "thank you" letter from the Department of Employment. It cites major management gains that agency thinks it has made, after a similar BSU-led project.

While his H&W survey will stick with interviews among management people, Ferguson likens his approach to the one he used to discover problems and possibilities for better organization among Boise's police personnel.

In that one, he logged long shifts cruising with the cops, watching their daily work habits, jotting notes that recorded complaints, hopes, suggestions and small talk, as it developed along the beats.

In H&W's case, Ferguson and the School of Business will be working this year on the first phase of a project that may extend beyond next June, if results call for added work and funds.

Dean Lein sees the program as "a cooperative effort between interdependent agencies (BSU and H&W), typical of a healthy relationship between ourselves and the communities of business and government."

Thus the project will be subject to regular review of how well the \$41-thousand from H&W is being spent.

Continued on page 2

Two significant figures led the data list: **BSU total student headcount for fall term is listed at 11,241 compared to 10,002 at the same point last year.**

When those totals are computed in terms of the "Full Time Enrollment" formulae used by the state board to weight student numbers by the credit hours they carry, the theoretical total for fall 1975 is 7,417. That compares to 6,806 FTE students last fall.

Thus, FTE increase for BSU amounts to a 9 per cent jump.

The figures confirmed increase claims of the school's department heads who have been dealing with BSU's overflowing classroom headache daily since early September.

Department breakdowns of the enrollment data had not been completed by "Focus" press time.

Other figures are as follows:

Full-time academic students, on campus, total 5,381. Part time students taking regular academic sequences totalled 3,939. The Balance of the enrollment total is made up by students in the school's vocational-technical division and various continuing education courses, both in day and night schools, says Mercy.

Mercy cautioned that no enrollment figures from any state higher education institution are to be considered official until verified and announced as such by the state board of education.

He expects the board to make final enrollment figures official at its October meeting this Thursday and Friday in Moscow, Idaho.



LOOKOUT DINING ROOM opened on third floor of Student Union September 22 as new table-service restaurant for campus. Open for luncheon only, it proved attractive to faculty, staff and students, under management of Gary Riberio, ARA Food Services Director on campus.

Wilson Rebutts U-I Ratio

In a column written for the current issue of "Focus", BSU Faculty Senate President Monte Wilson accuses University of Idaho student and faculty spokesmen of "irresponsible treatment of fact" in statements and articles the latter issued about faculty-student ratio comparisons for BSU-UI staffs, this summer.

He thus became the first BSU staff member to publicly respond to midsummer news articles appearing in several Idaho media that quoted UI student John Orwick, Professor Barbara Meldrum and to data furnished the State Board by the UI administration.

In his editorial page column (Page 11, this issue), Wilson offers his own analysis of the faculty-student ratio debate.

\$36 Million to Replace

Who Pays for BSU Buildings?

For BSU building watchers, some figures listed in a thick accounting volume kept in the school's financial office vaults provide insight into a constant question about the university's fast-filling campus.

The question: "What's all that worth?" A sub-query: "Who pays for it all?" If the subject is only about structures (leaving fixtures, furniture, library volumes, etc. aside) the answer is in the financial office ledgers.

It shows that, based on a "new replacement cost" value for each university building, the generations of students and

He thus rebutted midsummer news stories quoting the UI spokesmen.

In a story headlined "BSU State Board Favorite", the Moscow "Daily Idahonian" newspaper quoted Professor Meldrum as charging the Board with favoritism that is "dangerous" to UI's "struggle for survival".

As an example, Professor Meldrum pointed to what she called "light" treatment of the UI request from library funds though UI's library holdings are now below the national standards rating for Lewis-Clark State College, "the worst in the state system".

Another "sore point" with Professor Meldrum, reported the Idahonian, is that BSU got resource modifications (a phrase used to describe equalization of funds for

the state institutions in equal function areas) worth \$151,207 last year while UI got \$144,099.

The Orwick Argument

For his part, UI student John Orwick attacked the State Board on its record of student-teacher ratio financing for the two universities.

He supplied a figure-backed request to the State Board in August that UI get a special \$865-thousand allotment in 1976-77 budget that would add 56.5 new faculty positions there.

Orwick's figures, he claimed, proved BSU is already at "a better student teacher ratio level than the UI," reported the Lewiston Morning Tribune.

Orwick based that request on getting Idaho to a 19-1 student teacher ratio. He claimed that was the ratio the Board shoots for at Boise State.

But Orwick drew immediate sniffs of "erroneous assumption" from the State Board's fiscal expert, Dr. James Todd. He claimed that 19-1 ratio was an "obsolete" figure never actually used by the Board in recent budget discussions. Orwick then rebutted that it was, in fact, used as a justification last year when BSU got a 23-teacher emergency approval from the State Board.

Until Professor Wilson's remarks this week, BSU spokesmen had let the State Board do the talking. Then Chuck Lein, Board of Dimes, College Entrance Exam, Region Board, Potlatch Foundation, Aerial Nuclear Company, Borah High School, J. S. Tobacco Company, Miss Iola Wecott, and Mrs. Lois R. Sexty.

athletic fans are the campus buildings backbone.

To replace all BSU buildings today, the experts estimate, would cost about \$36-million. If it were possible to remove every structure built with bonds based on student fees, housing payments or athletic revenues, that value would be cut roughly in half.

Of the remaining half, over two-thirds of the value was put here by taxpayers of the old Boise Junior College district.

Continued on page 2