

# bsu FOCUS

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## BSU Budget Now Before Legislature

In a short but thorough presentation to the legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee Jan. 23, BSU President John Keiser asked that lawmakers look at the "quality and price of the product" as they set budgets for Fiscal 1980.

To back up his arguments about

quality at BSU, Keiser cited a list of academic achievements (Rhodes scholar, academic all-American, favorable business accreditation review, national first place for the school's literary magazine) that occurred just before Christmas.

As for price, he recited a list of comparison figures from his former state of

Illinois to point at the value received for the educational dollar in Idaho.

BSU, he said, supports 34 percent of the state's students on 26 percent of the higher education budget. The difference in Illinois is seldom more than two percentage points.

He added that "administrative overhead" here is five percent less, money spent on instruction is five percent more, and BSU spends \$1,000 less per full time student than Illinois.

"The budget before you is built on a base that represents academic quality and efficiency as well as economy," he told legislators in his first appearance before the joint committee.

### Fiscal '80 Requests

For Fiscal '80 Boise State is requesting an appropriation of \$18,885,100, an 8.5 percent increase over the current year.

Most of that, 5.9 percent, is to cover inflationary costs in the operating budget. Another 2.6 percent is for "new" items.

Governor John Evans has recommended a 3.6 percent increase for BSU.

Keiser defended salary increases at BSU, stating that the institution is "only as good as the people you can keep and hold dedicated to it."

He also said the school's library costs have been hard hit by inflation.

"While our percentage in dollars spent is comparable to the other institutions, it is less than adequate because of our low base," he explained.

During the presentation, he talked about three of the 12 "new" items requested. Those were occupation costs for the new Education Building (\$48,700), Construction Management continuation (\$29,800) and funds for Health Science personnel who have been paying their own travel expenses to supervise students outside Boise (\$8,700).

The Governor has recommended full funding for the education move-in and partial funding for Construction Management.

### Few Questions

In an unusually light question session, Keiser said compliance with Title IX guidelines in women's sports could cost the university between \$50-100,000.

Surplus revenues from other sports could sustain BSU for a year, but to go beyond that would mean cuts in other sports, he said.

While Keiser urged the committee to consider all of BSU's requests, it is al-

most certain that full funding will not be granted.

As the ramifications of the one percent initiative unfold, even Governor Evans' 3.6 percent increase may be challenged by legislators looking for ways to trim budgets.

### Talks to Faculty

Keiser expressed his concerns to over 400 BSU faculty in his first "State of the University" address Jan. 25.

Using a pamphlet prepared for the legislature, he went through each of the budget items as well as reduction levels in the "alternate budget" prepared for the State Board of Education.

If the school's funds were cut by as much as 10 percent, it would set the university back 5 years or more, he told the faculty.

"It would jeopardize our standing as a quality university," he said.

A reduction to that level would cost the school 84 full-time positions, including 35 faculty. There would be "significant cuts" in summer school and part-time faculty who teach evening courses and the loss of some programs.

In the speech Keiser pointed out that BSU faculty salaries have decreased in "real" dollars (after effects of inflation are factored in) by \$1 over the last eight years. He said faculty members should receive raises, even if layoffs are necessary.

"Regardless of numbers, professors deserve to be treated like professionals," Keiser told the audience.

## Committee Back

President John Keiser has revived a campus committee that has previously provided advice and developed policy on athletic matters.

The Intercollegiate Athletic Review and Advisory Board, formerly known as the Athletic Board of Control, has been inactive for about a year.

Chaired by engineering professor Norm Dahm, the committee has been charged by Keiser to deal with matters such as scheduling, ticket prices and distribution, long-range goals of the athletic program, and personnel.

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John Keiser and the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee

Photo by Chuck Kneise

## BSU Opens Doors for 'Preview'

Boise State University's doors will swing wide open to the public on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

The occasion: the first-ever "BSU Preview" day, an open house designed to show BSU's academic and vo-tech wares to high school students and others who are interested.

Once the visitors are welcomed and briefed at a 10 a.m. assembly in the Student Union Building, they'll spread across campus to visit departments and

enjoy over 100 activities that are planned during the day.

There will be enough going on across campus to keep the visitors busy every minute, according to organizers Jerry Davis and Dave Lindsay of the High School and University Relations Office.

A sampling of what's in store includes such things as a skit by foreign languages, demonstrations of technical instruments by science departments, a jazz band concert, weaving demonstrations, and computer games.

Department labs and classrooms will also be open to student tours, and BSU faculty will be available to explain their disciplines.

Most of the programs will last about 30-50 minutes. Because of the large number of activities scheduled, some will be repeated during the day.

A free hot dog and potato chips lunch will be sponsored by the Greek living groups starting at 11:30 a.m. in the SUB Nez Perce room.

Davis says all Idaho high school students have been invited to the BSU Preview events.

But it isn't just limited to students.

In fact, after a break between 4-6:30 p.m., events will run up to 9 p.m. so parents and others interested can attend after working hours.

Persons who want more information about BSU Preview can contact the Office of High School and University Relations, 385-1401.