

# Legislators told budget caused faculty to leave

BSU President John Keiser warned legislators in mid-January that tight budgets could cause Idaho universities to lose key faculty members.

Speaking to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, Keiser said the challenge facing higher education in the '80's is to retain quality faculty despite tight budgets.

"The situation at Boise State is reflected in the fact that we not only did we lose the chairman of the geology department at mid-semester, but we also lost five others. That is the first time that has happened.

"The reasons they left range from salary to workload to general uncertainty over the situation in Idaho,"

Keiser said.

Using a pamphlet prepared for legislators, Keiser explained how inflation had eaten away at faculty salaries until professors today are taking home 10 percent less in purchasing power than they were 10 years ago.

He also recited figures that showed how inflation had eaten away at budgets since 1976.

"Our librarian tells me he now has 20 percent less purchasing power than he did three years ago, despite budget increases." Keiser said prices had jumped 14 percent last year for books, and 20 percent for periodicals.

For Fiscal 1981 Boise State is asking the legislature for \$20,367,200, an

increase of 12.8 percent from the current budget.

Of that, \$1,789,000 is for an increase in the school's "maintenance of current operations." The remainder, \$523,900, is for other requests, such as funds to bring faculty salaries up to levels of surrounding states, merit increases, plant outlay, and other personnel items.

Governor John Evans has recommended almost the same total as the State Board of Education, but put more into the salary increase category and cut operating expenses.

Of the "new" items BSU requested, Evans recommended funding for a faculty position in interdisciplinary studies and \$99,000 in plant outlay.

"From the perspective of those who have to make their living from what we have to provide, there is a kind of uncertainty that does not auger well for the future," Keiser added in his presentation.

"Under pressures of budget cuts and inflation, I would remind you we have managed to retain a quality product, even while the price is going down.

"But when six faculty leave at semester, this is threatened, he told the legislators.

A committee vote on the budgets for colleges and universities is expected by the middle of the month, according to Keiser.

# bsu FOCUS

Vol. V, No. 5

The Monthly Newsmagazine of Boise State University

February, 1980 Boise, Idaho

## Legislature to consider classroom

The fate of the Arts and Humanities Building that will be a major portion of the Morrison Center complex will be decided later this month by the legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

Boise State has asked that committee to appropriate \$2.5 million this year toward the building's \$5 million price tag.

The request is ranked number four on the list of eight recommendations provided the committee by the Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council. Ahead of it are requests for building improvements to meet life-safety codes and two prison projects.

In addition, Governor John Evans recommended construction of the building in his State of the State message in early January.

BSU will ask for another \$2.5 million next winter and construction could begin later that year if the appropriation is granted.

While the legislature continues its deliberations, the firm of Lombard-Conrad Architects continue to meet with university and community groups that will use the Morrison Center.

According to architect Joe Conrad, his firm will meet with the center's project committee in mid-February to review space requests. By March 17, he says architects will "hopefully" be able to describe what can be included in the building.

## Over 40 want vo-tech job

Boise State has received over 40 applications for the new dean's position in the School of Vocational-Technical Education, according to Executive Vice-President Richard Bullington.

A search and selection committee has been appointed, and will narrow the field to the top ten by mid-February. By the end of the month the top three candidates will be chosen and invited on campus for interviews.

The final selection should be made by March 15, and the new dean will report by July 1, Bullington said.



BOISE STATE student body president Mike Cramer joined his colleagues from other universities last week to lobby against a bill that would permit Idaho to charge resident tuition. At FOCUS press time the outcome of the measure was still in doubt.

## KAID Festival begins in March

"Festival '80," a two-week television extravaganza of variety entertainment begins March 4 on KAID-TV.

For the festival, BSU's public broadcasting station, Channel 4, will offer such specials as "The Dukes of Dixieland and Friends," the New Orleans Pop Orchestra, the Grand Ole Opry, "Voyage

of Charles Darwin," National Geographic's "Invisible World," and the Idaho A-1 boys' high school basketball championships.

The annual TV festival is produced to solicit support for the Public Broadcasting station.

## Sabbaticals questioned

This academic year nine Boise State professors will receive at least half their salaries, but they won't teach one class.

They have been granted sabbatical leaves from the classroom so they can do research, complete their doctorates, or refresh their knowledge.

The amount BSU spends on leaves has been criticized as too low by faculty, but in these times of tight budgets even that is being considered for elimination.

Members of the State Board of Education have called for a study of sabbaticals to see if that isn't one program that could be reduced if funds are short.

Boise State has \$13,000 in its budget and uses money from salaries saved to pay for teaching replacements for professors on sabbatical.

The program has already been seriously cut once. That came four years ago when the legislature allocated BSU \$50,000 for sabbaticals, but did not fund salary increases that year.

To make up the difference BSU took from the sabbatical money to pay the raises. The \$50,000 has never been replaced.

Boise State administrators and faculty agree that sabbaticals are important, even though their benefits can't be measured and they seem like a luxury to some.

"It is my unwavering point of view that they are extremely valuable," says Executive Vice-President Richard Bullington. They are a good experience to re-charge academic batteries."

The university gains because faculty come back to the classroom refreshed and up-to-date in their field, he explained.

During the last three years 24 BSU faculty members have taken sabbatical leave. Eight of those left to learn more in their fields, and another eight left to publish articles or texts.

To qualify for leave, applicants must have worked here six years. They are screened by department chairmen and deans, but the final university decision rests with a Sabbatical Leave Committee before it is sent to the State Board.

Darryl Huskey, chairman of the Faculty Senate, says he would hate to see the program cut further.

"It allows renewal of energy and expertise in the frontiers of a professor's field.

(Continued on page 2)