



Reprinted from Portland Oregonian

More money, fringes lure BSU faculty

Enticed by higher salaries and richer fringe benefits, an increasing number of Boise State faculty are leaving the fold to cash in on better opportunities elsewhere.

A case in point is veteran economics professor Don Holley, who called it quits in January after 10 years on the faculty. Holley left to accept a job at Ore-Ida Foods that pays 33 percent more than he was making and offers an enviable fringe benefit package.

"After 12 years teaching in Idaho, I was making less than when I started in Pocatello 12 years ago," Holley said. "You always think things will be better, but in balance, over the past 12 years, it's been worse. And, as you look ahead, it can't get better over the next few years."

The bleak outlook for higher education in Idaho and the unlikely prospect his paycheck would get much fatter over the next few years was especially disheartening to Holley as the father of two children fast-approaching college age.

"I began to think I've got to do something else to have enough money to send them where I want to send them," he said. "I don't think I could have afforded even to send them to Boise State."

Economics also was the key to Dr. John Mitchell's decision to end his 13-year career at BSU at the end of the term to take a job as an economist at a Portland bank—a move that will earn him about a 40 percent raise.

Although he has not resigned, professor Barry

(Continued on page 10)

School chiefs sound warnings on budget

Some gave long speeches, others short ones, but all four of Idaho's college and university presidents sounded a common warning to the Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee that this year could be the turning point in the quality of higher education in Idaho.

The presidents, who have presided over two budget holdbacks since July, told legislators that their schools will be hard pressed to maintain their programs intact unless the state comes up with more revenue.

"The reason you get so deeply and so immediately into programs and into faculty and into staff is that there's nothing left but that," BSU President John Keiser told the committee.

The presidents appeared before JFAC in late January to present their fiscal 1984 budget requests. Keiser said BSU is asking for \$25 million to maintain its programs. The overall request for higher education was \$92 million.

Those amounts stand little chance of approval, however, because state tax receipts are not expected to increase much over the current year.

This week JFAC began appropriating a fiscal 1984 budget of about \$405 million. If the legislature holds to that amount and does not increase taxes, colleges and universities can expect to receive about \$82.5 million, \$2.8 million less than they received this year, according to JFAC's principal budget analyst John Franden.

Assuming funds are distributed to the schools by the same percentage they were last year, Boise State could receive a fiscal year 1984 operating budget of about \$22.2 million, a three percent drop from the current budget, he said.

The actual cut, however, could reach as high as 10 percent because the university would also have to absorb inflationary costs.

A cut of that magnitude, Keiser told the committee, would result in the loss of 1000 students and the termination of 54 faculty. A 10 percent cut represents nearly the entire budget for the School of Business, he said.

BSU began fiscal 1983 with a budget of \$24.3 million, but two cuts totaling \$1.4 million dropped the actual budget to the present \$22.9 million.

The current year's budget could be cut further, depending on what Gov. John Evans does with a bill

designed to solve the state's revenue shortfall.

Part of that bill includes a 1.5 percent cut for higher education. If that section becomes law, BSU would stand to lose about \$280,000 from its operating budget.

The prospect of more cuts will further reduce educational opportunities for Idaho citizens, Keiser told the committee.

"Increasing numbers of Idahoans will be turned away from higher education as a result of prohibitive cost or lack of programs," he said.

In her introductory remarks to the budget committee, State Board of Education member Janet Hay urged legislators to increase their commitment to higher education.

"The arguments that we can't impose more taxes to fund higher education don't hold water. Why should we be the poor relation forever?" she said.

"We've given ourselves so much tax relief in the past four years we've relieved ourselves of our commitment to funding education. We should be building, not cutting. So this year, let's make a new commitment . . . let's be the best," Hay said.

Setencich takes over after Criner resigns

Boise State's football program has a new hand at the controls following the resignation of Jim Criner and the appointment of defensive coordinator Lyle Setencich as the new head coach.

Criner, who has been BSU's head coach since 1976, resigned Jan. 29 to take a similar job at Iowa State University in Ames for a salary package reported in the \$150,000 to \$180,000 range.

His seven-year record at BSU was 59-21-1, a 74 percent winning average and the most victories by any coach in Big Sky history. In 1980 he guided the Broncos to the national Division IAA championship.

Setencich, who was appointed head coach the morning of Criner's resignation by Athletic Director Gene Bleymaier, came to BSU three years ago after coaching at San Ramon High School in Danville, Calif.

The new head coach turned around two losing high school football programs at San Ramon and Albany, Calif.

Setencich played college football at the College of the Sequoias and at Fresno State, where he graduated in 1968 with a degree in physical education, social studies, and biological sciences.

Donor strengthens library collection

A gift of \$2,500 to the BSU library from the Vardis Fisher Memorial Fund and Opal Fisher, widow of the famous Idaho author, has brightened what has been a dreary winter for the BSU library.

In a September *FOCUS* article this year, BSU librarian Timothy A. Brown had cited a 20 percent loss in buying power for the library caused by a materials budget cut from \$378,000 to \$347,000. That loss, coupled with the loss of inflation funds previously allocated to BSU by the State Board of Education and a 35 percent loss over the past decade left the library budget in a seriously eroded condition, Brown said in the article.

"Mrs. Fisher's gift is significant because it was made by a member of the community who noticed the library's plight and responded with exceptional generosity," Brown said this month.

The donation will be used to buy badly needed books in humanities subjects, he said.

"Now we'll be able to purchase more than a hundred books which we otherwise wouldn't be able to acquire this year—books which we might never have been able to get since they might possibly be out of print later," he said.

"The library has a permanent need for help from the community, and at the moment that need is particularly acute. We are extremely grateful for this kind of help," Brown said.

"Usually such gifts are used to strengthen collections—to fill gaps, to add. Now funds must be used for basic needs first. We desperately hope this is a temporary situation and that within the next 18 months basic funding will be re-established," he said.

In a Feb. 13 article in *The Idaho Statesman*,

(Continued on page 4)