

Snyder calls faculty pay increases top university priority

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FRANKFORT, Ky. — Harry Snyder, executive director of the state Council on Higher Education, said yesterday that faculty and staff salary increases are the top budget priority in 1980-82 at the state's eight universities.

Moreover, Snyder told the legislature's joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue that tuition would be going up next year for students at the state schools.

But he said he didn't yet know how much the increase would be.

Snyder said his agency has already substantially reduced campus budget requests for the next two years.

The overall request, he said, provides increases for operations to offset inflation and allots the smallest proposed funding for capital construction in recent years. It would not finance any new programs or expand present ones, Snyder said.

This year's state appropriation of \$305.6 million for the universities' operations would go to \$354.3 million in

1980-81 and \$402.6 million in 1981-82, Snyder said.

The request, he added, includes 9.5 percent annual cost-of-living salary increases for faculty and staff members, plus an extra \$10.2 million in "catch-up" money to bring faculty salaries in line with those at similar schools in surrounding states.

In response to questions, Snyder said that salaries for community-college professors are further behind their counterparts in other states than pay for other professors. He said the council's proposed budget would bring them into line with other states.

Senate Majority Leader John Berry Jr., D-New Castle, asked Snyder how the legislature could be assured that money appropriated for community-college salaries went for that purpose.

Snyder said it could be specified in the appropriations bill. But he added that there has previously been no problem with universities using state funds for their intended purposes.

Snyder came under heavy questioning from several committee members

on proposed capital construction in the next two years.

The council has proposed \$8.6 million for debt service to underwrite revenue bonds to build about \$85 million worth of campus facilities. Additionally, it is seeking a \$16.3 million cash allocation and another \$23 million for building renovations.

Rep. Buddy Adams, D-Bowling Green, noted that enrollments are dropping on some campuses and stabilizing on others. "How can you justify such capital construction?" Adams asked.

Snyder said that most of the proposed construction is targeted for three schools with special needs or growing enrollments. They are the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University.

Sen. Mike Moloney, D-Lexington, also told Snyder that if the schools based their salary requests on pay for professors at similar schools in other states, tuition increases should be considered similarly.

Snyder said his staff is already studying that issue and may have a tuition in-

crease to recommend to the full council at a Feb. 27 meeting.

"We're going to have an increase next fall. There's no question about that," he said.

Tuition for Kentucky residents, Snyder said, has not been raised in three years, although tuition for non-Kentuckians has been raised in each of the past three years.

On another education matter, the House Education Committee approved a bill yesterday that would extend the terms of members of state-university governing boards from four to six years.

Senate Bill 57, which has already passed the Senate, similarly extends terms of members of the higher education council.

The committee also approved House Bill 412, which would add the head of the staff senate at the University of Louisville to the U of L board of trustees.

The committee delayed action on HB 333, which would add a staff member to the boards of regents at all other schools except UK. The two-week delay is to give the committee time to determine if the universities support the bill.

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