

Faculty group endorses raises

By RON MITCHELL
Daily News Staff Writer

An organization representing faculty at seven of the eight state-supported universities announced Tuesday it is supporting faculty salary increases proposed by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. for the 1980-82 biennium.

During a press conference attended by Brown, who was in Bowling Green for the official announcement of relocation of a General Motors assembly plant, the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders said it is supporting Brown's recommendation rather than the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee budget.

"We wholeheartedly endorse your budget as the best package higher education faculty have received in five years," Steve West, COSFL legislative liaison told Brown.

Under Brown's budget proposal the overall increase, including a salary adjustment pool and equity in retirement funding, would average between 10.7 percent and 11.7 percent during 1980-81 and between 9.5 percent and 10.5 percent during 1981-82. pickup 4th graf beginning...Brown responded.

Brown responded to the endorsement by pledging his support for higher education faculty and emphasizing his commitment to higher education.

The University of Kentucky is the only state university not affiliated with the faculty group.

Brown said his budget recommendations are based on faculty salaries at state institutions in

surrounding states and explained he is attempting to avoid cutbacks in faculty salaries because "faculty have been neglected more than anyone else" in the state budget.

Tom Jones, COSFL chairman and an English professor at Western Kentucky University, reiterated the group's position on the importance of faculty at state universities.

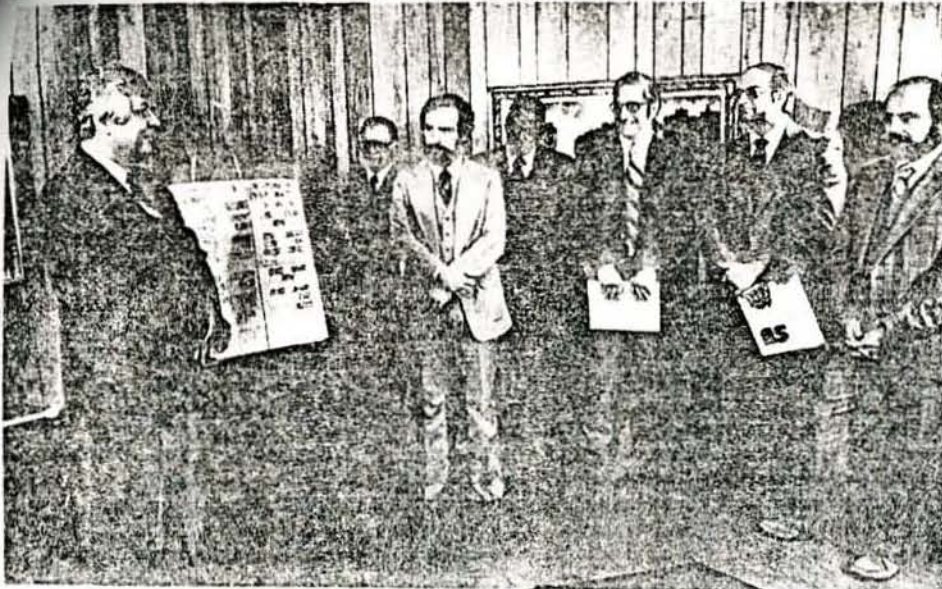
West, a pre-law instructor at Murray State University, displayed a chart comparing the governor's salary recommendation with the House committee proposal.

During the first year of the biennium, Brown's budget includes "cost of living" increases of 7.5 percent or \$334.7 million compared with an 8 percent or \$328.5 recommended increase from the legislative committee.

Although the percentage of increase is greater in the House budget document, West explained Brown's budget includes a larger appropriation because the House is assuming there will be a 5 percent personnel cutback.

The "cost of living" increases during 1981-82 are \$373.6 million in the administration budget and \$365.6 million in the House recommendation, according to West's figures.

One major difference between the two budgets is that the Brown recommendation includes a salary adjustment pool, to be distributed by the Council on Higher Education, during each year of the biennium and the House document does not include any funding for this category, West said.



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

GOV. JOHN Y. BROWN JR. (left) spoke briefly Tuesday to a group of faculty members from state universities who endorsed the governor's budget recommendations. The Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders met in Bowling Green to discuss higher education legislation pending before the 1980 General Assembly. Among the COSFL members at the press conference were Steve West (third from left), legislative liason, and Dr. William Buckman (second from right), WKU physics professor and university regent.