AAUP news

Cuts are necessary, regent says

BY STEPHANIE BROADDENT

Western may have to "tighten its belt" and cut programs that aren't essential to the university, Faculty Regent Ray Mendel told the American Association of University Professors Tuesday.

Mendel said cuts to fund $2.5 million in faculty raises would be painful but necessary.

He said the University Budget Committee is examining all areas of the university, including athletics. He would not say which programs the committee is considering cutting.

Several AAUP members were concerned that faculty jobs may be lost. Mendel said that is possible, but cuts are necessary "to keep Western from sinking."

"We can't have salary raises and complain about every cut," he said.

AAUP Vice President Robert Dietle said the faculty should have more input on what gets cut. Academic programs should only be cut as a last resort, he said.

The budget committee's recommendations should be given to the Board of Regents sometime next week.

Just a second

Mendel to brief faculty on pay

Faculty Regent Ray Mendel will update the Faculty Senate on the status of the University Budget Committee's effort to find $2.5 million for faculty pay raises at 3:30 today in Wetherby Administration Building, Regents Room.

Mendel said he will also discuss President Thomas Meredith's plans to use Western XXI as a guide for cuts. Western XXI is a long-range plan that lists departments in order of importance to the university.

Mendel will address some faculty concerns regarding men's basketball Coach Ralph Willard's incentive package to stay at Western. About $300,000 was donated from private sources to persuade Willard to remain at Western.

"The monies raised are non-university funds," Mendel said. "It is unlikely that those funds would have been donated to other university functions."