

Faculty group's position is given

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An organization comprised of senate faculty leaders at state universities has drafted a statement for use by the General Assembly and Gov. John Y. Brown in proposing a 1980-82 state budget.

The statement, outlined this morning in a press conference by Tom Jones, an English professor at Western Kentucky University and chair of the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders, includes a definition of "faculty" and provisions for appropriating faculty salary increases.

"All funds appropriated for cost of living faculty salary increases shall be distributed to individual faculty members with each receiving a percentage not less than that designated...in the budget approved by the Kentucky General Assembly and the governor," the statement says.

Faculty are defined as instructional-research staff employed on a full-time basis including those with released time for research and sabbatical "and whose major regular assignment is instruction of students or professional library service," according to the statement.

Departmental chairpersons or heads, if they have no other administrative title and if part of their regular assignment includes instruction of students, are considered faculty, Jones said.

"The salary language implies mistrust. It is simply based on past experience, not present expectations," Jones said. "We do not conceive this step to be bizarre in any way in view of the fact that capital construction funds have been line itemed for that purpose."

Jones said the statement has been presented to Don Mills, an aide to Gov. John Y. Brown Jr., who has said the information will become part of the governor's budget proposal.

The language drafted by the COSFL will allow for merit increases because "we are not suggesting everyone receive the same amount," Jones said.

There are indications that in past budget appropriations faculty have not received money as requested by the state Council on Higher Education, Jones explained.

The CHE and the presidents of the eight state-supported institutions have requested the state budget to include 9.5 percent faculty salary increases for each year of the biennium and a 5 percent retirement parity for some institutions.

According to Jones, Mills said the governor's budget does not include a 9.5 percent faculty increase for 1980-81 but "we will be treated well in the second year of the biennium."

Also during the press conference, Jones said faculty

at all state universities, excluding the University of Kentucky which is not a member of COSFL, are being urged by the statewide organization to write letters supporting faculty salary increases.

The letters, which would be sent to Brown and Finance Secretary George Atkins, can be phrased individually but should note that 7 percent salary increases are insufficient, Jones said.

"We're not suggesting a mass impersonal mailing. Rather, we want these men to know we are individual human beings who are being inadequately rewarded for what we do," he said. "We're further suggesting writers do not use university material of any kind."

The action by the COSFL is not an attempt to "attack" university presidents but is supportive of the faculty salary increases recommended by the CHE, Jones said.