Plan guarantees 3% budget increase

From Page A3

The mission model proposal has spawned feverish lobbying and suggestions from some supporters of the regional universities that the council be abolished.

However, Richardson said that he thinks the council will remain intact and that the governor's recommendation will be approved.

"I think that the plan has an excellent chance of passing," he said. "I don't see any major problems at all."

Prather, in discussing his support for the compromise, said that he would oppose any proposal to put the university presidents back on the council. The presidents were removed when the governor reorganized the council in 1980.

The Legislature must ratify the governor's action. Prather said that approval of the council's reorganization was not part of the discussion of the compromise.

Presidents on both sides of the issue claimed at least a victory in principle--for each side, though one president acknowledged that the money at stake was relatively small.

"There are not a lot of dollars to be carried home by anybody," said Eastern President J.C. Powell.

Powell said that the governor's recommendation "does recognize that there are problems of quality in the regional institutions and that quality has got to be protected."

"Maybe he's found a solution that everybody feels that they got a point accepted," Powell said of the governor's plan.

Powell and Morehead President Morris L. Norfleet indicated that they did not expect any opposition to the plan from the regional universities' supporters.

"Although our institutions will not receive all the funds we feel will be needed in the next two years," Norfleet said that the governor's plan provides "more equitable funding" than the council's plan.

UK President Otis A. Singletary said that "the comments by the governor and the legislative leadership are a strong endorsement of the mission model concept as adopted by the council on Higher Education."

"We continue to believe that such an approach is in the best interest of the Commonwealth in that it provides a rational basis for funding decisions in higher education."

Brown said that support for the compromise was "important to the confrontation and bickering between the college presidents and institutions."

Commenting on the recent lobbying, Brown said he hoped the issue had been laid to rest so the president could return to the campuses and "not spend so much time in Frankfort."