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Proposed cuts accepted

by Danielle M. Murphy
News Editor

A proposal to eliminate one percent (\$130,283) of Behrend College's permanent budget was accepted last month by Dr. John M. Lilley, provost and dean.

The proposal comes in response to a request by Dr. Graham B. Spanier, president of Penn State University, to identify ways to make Behrend College more efficient in serving the needs of northwestern Pennsylvania.

According to Dr. John D. Burke, associate provost and dean and chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee, the recommendations will be reviewed by Spanier and the University Futures Committee before implementation.

The committee, responsible for developing the plan, consisted of faculty, staff and students. Membership overlapped the former Behrend College Future Committee.

The proposal focuses on salary savings, the elimination of the Penn State Education Partnership Program, a change in computer science faculty and a reduction in the Speaker Series budget.

These cuts were designed with the University's stipulations that all reductions be enrollment neutral. "I think that University Park has to see, based on background information, that this is the best we could come up with based on their parameters," said Biddy A. Brooks, assistant head of the Division of Undergraduate Studies and a member of the committee.

The committee explored other possible budget cuts and had a difficult time completing the final proposal. "We discussed various possibilities to come up with the one percent," said

Brooks. "There is not an easy way to do that."

"The committee did a very thorough job, but I hope it's a plan that won't have to be put in place," said Lilley. "But times are tough for higher education."

Implementation of the cuts may not materialize. Based on things Spanier has said concerning Behrend, the College may see a period of growth rather than budget cuts. "If University Park decides that Behrend will go into a growth mode," said Lilley, "it is highly likely that the cuts won't matter."

Salary savings include \$3,000 from a staff assistant position and \$20,000 from an anticipated retirement. The retiring tenure-track position will be replaced by a lecturer appointment on a multi-year basis.

The elimination of PEPP, a program that provides tutors for Erie School District children, will save \$66,620. However, the committee considered PEPP to be a very beneficial community service program and it had been removed from previous budget reduction lists.

Behrend had planned to use \$18,000 to create a tenure-track computer science position, replacing a lecturer position. Rather than create the position, the committee recommended cutting these funds and finding alternatives to strengthen the computer science program.

The committee's recommendation included reducing the Speaker Series budget by half, saving \$22,663. The Speaker Series would be able to continue, with funding from outside areas such as grants and endowments. "There may be a reduction in the number of larger name speakers," said Brooks.



Collegian file photo

Deep freeze: Students brave sub-freezing temperatures for higher education. Forecasters are calling for temps in the 30s and 40s for the rest of the week.

Student takes icy plunge

BERHEND-A plunge into the icy creek waters of Wintergreen Gorge sent a Behrend student to the hospital for medical attention.

Chris Moore fell into Four Mile Creek in the Gorge last Wednesday sometime before 1 p.m., according to Bill Donahue, manager of Police and Safety Services.

Following the accident, Moore went to the Police and Safety office for medical treatment. There Moore was treated by Police and Safety officers for lacerations and hypothermia. He was then transported by the Brookside Volunteer Fire Department to an undisclosed hospital where he was treated and released.

Moore was unavailable for comment and due to confidentiality laws, information about his condition cannot be released.

This time of year, Donahue warns students of the dangers of venturing into the Gorge alone. The ice is not thick enough to safely support a person, and the frigid rushing waters pose a potential danger. "Just being careful is not always enough," said Donahue. "Don't go by yourself, especially this time of year. It's not safe to be doing this."

Student aid in danger

Possible federal cuts threaten student loans and grants.

by Kyra Kindon
Collegian Staff

Proposed cuts in federal student aid loom over the heads of Penn State students. The federal government has proposed to reduce the amounts of aid given to university students, through the form of loans, the most common form of aid, grants and scholarships.

"The specifics about what will be cut and how much will be cut are still unknown," said Jane Brady, assistant director of Admissions and Financial Aid.

As of the 1994-1995 school year, Behrend had a total of 2,098 aid recipients, which accounted for 74 percent of the student body. Almost \$13 million in financial aid was received by Behrend students. A typical financial aid package consisted of nearly \$6,000.

Proposed legislation suggests cutting two-thirds of the total federal student aid budget of \$31 billion. As a result of calls and letters from students, parents and concerned citizens, the level of proposed cuts to student funding has reduced.

However, Congress now seeks to reduce federal student aid programs by \$10-15 billion over the next seven years. These cuts by Congress are the biggest cuts in the history of student aid.

At Penn State, the number of students who rely on federal loans would increase if the proposed cuts are approved. The six

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