

Vol. 27, No. 3

Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg

March 2, 1992

Lean times may follow possible budget cuts

Elin Marcel Capital Times Staff

The proposed budget cuts in higher education could claim one casualty at Penn State Harrisburg, the Small Business Development Center, but other division heads say for now they are only tightening their belts.

Keith Yackee, director of the Small Business Development Center, said the governor slashed the center's funding 69 percent.

"The governor has to unfreeze funds or we will close down," Yackee said. "We don't have much choice."

Last year, the center aided 1,134 small businesses in the area, helping with export assistance, bank financing and government purchasing procurement, Yackee said. It is one of 14 centers in Pennsylvania, serving seven counties in the Harrisburg area.

Yackee said he doesn't know why Casey specifically targeted the center.

"We don't know how to respond," Yackee said. "He's only one man, and we don't know what motivated him."

Hoping to dissuade him, over 100 of the center's clients have sent letters to the governor, Yackee said.

The center is prepared to close in the end of June, Yackee said, leaving South Central Pennsylvania without its services, and 21 staff members jobless.

'It's not real good for staff morale," Yackee said.

According to the Patriot-News, university officials fear funding cuts will result in skyrocketing tuitions, overcrowded classes and staff layoffs.

"Governor Casey's budget message comes at the end of a series of discouraging economic messages to the higher education community in Pennsylvania," said Joab Thomas, Penn State University president, in the Feb. 6 edition of the Patriot-News.

In a letter to the Penn State Harrisburg community, Provost and Dean Ruth Leventhal said although the budget adjustment will be "significant," several unforseen factors made departmental budget cuts unnecessary.

Leventhal cited lower energy consumption due to mild weather and salary savings from early retirements as factors contributing to budget savings.

Although Penn State Harrisburg academic divisions are not directly affected, Gautam Ray, director of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology, said his school is cutting back on copies, mailing, travel expenses and phone usage. He is also encouraging professors to write grant proposals, to bring money to the school.

"My concern is whether we can still run a top-notch program," Ray said. 'Quality will be affected."

Other division heads agreed they have not been touched by the proposed cuts.

Harold Shill, head of the division of Library and Information Systems, said the library here will not be affected.

The amount allocated to university libraries is \$85,307," Shill said. "Nancy Cline, dean of university libraries, made the decision to absorb the cut at the

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Leventhal finalist in presidency search

Sharon Barris Capital Times Staff

Ruth Leventhal, provost and dean at Penn State Harrisburg, has been chosen as a finalist for the presidency of San Jose State University, officials said.

The Patriot-News reported last week that Leventhal is one of six finalists, chosen from about 100 candidates, to replace the former president, Gail Fullerton.

Leventhal was surprised when the story hit the Harrisburg paper.

"I didn't know I was such big news," she said.

Leventhal said she was not looking for a change, but was nominated for the position.

She has been the Penn State Harrisburg provost since 1984, and said she has been very happy with the job.

However, Leventhal said it is an honor to be among the finalists, and will visit San Jose for a rigorous series of interviews that will begin Monday evening and end Wednesday morning.

She is preparing for her visit by reviewing information about the college.

If the Board of Trustees selects Leventhal as the new president at their meeting next month, she will have a major decision to make, based on two main factors.

She must feel comfortable with



Ruth Leventhal

the environment and its values, and feel she can make a difference at the institution.

Leventhal said she does not think officials at Penn State will question her loyalty to the university if she is not selected.

She is dedicated to her job, and will continue to keep the university informed, she said.

Leventhal, a Philadelphia native, graduated from the University of

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PSH library undergoes improvements

Karen M. Putt Capital Times Staff

Solutions to the "short-term" problems brought to the attention of Penn State Harrisburg administrators by the Students For a Quality Library are happening in the library.

According to Heindel Library Division Head Howard Shill, the college is "attempting to correct all the short-term problems raised by the student organization.

'Since December, we've added another copier, repaired peeling lamination on table tops, fixed the sagging index tables

and painted the doors to the restrooms," he reader/printer has been delayed. said.

According to Doug Manger, a graduate student in American Studies and a member of the Students For a Quality Library, the group is "very pleased" with the changes occuring in the library.

"I'm very impressed with Dr. Shill," Manger said. "He's really committed to improving the conditions in the library and things are getting done."

Shill said while equipment improvements such as repair to the broken typewriters and installation of a new pencil sharpener have occured, the purchase of a new micro-fiche

"With the roll-backs on the education budget. I'm not sure we're going to be able to get them as soon as we'd like," he said. "If we don't get them this year, then I'll put the request right back on the table for next year."

Looking at long-term goals for the Heindel Library, Shill said he remains optimistic that improvements, such as an automated check out and possibly a redesigned library exit, "are approaching quickly."

'We've worked out an agreement with University Park to be the first campus outside of U.P. to have an automated

circulation desk," he said.

According to Shill, he and other campus administrators have met with officials from University Park to "get the ball rolling on a new system for the library."

Shill said the target date for implementing automated circulation is set for Aug. 1. The new system will require all items in the library's collection to be barcoded. A process Shill said could take approximately two years to complete.

'We have almost two-thirds of the collection barcoded," he said. "About five