

budget request for the next academic year was submitted to the State last September and contains a requested increase of approximately 15% or 16 million dollars. The request reflects no tuition increase and argues strongly for this level of appropriation so that no increase will be necessary.

The budget request indicates essentially inflationary and mandatory cost increases and the monies necessary to handle a small increase in student enrollment of around 100 additional students at University Park and approximately 700 at the Commonwealth Campuses. We will not see the proposed budget prepared by the Governor for the legislature until February.

ALMA MATER

One last item is less crucial than housing or the calendar or the tuition, but more symbolic. While you were away I announced at Commencement the adoption, recommended by the Alumni Association, of a change in the third verse of the Alma Mater, a revision suggested by its author, Fred Lewis Pattee, in 1948. He did this in recognition of a growing number of women in the student body. Five years ago when I came to Penn State we moved to change the imposed ratio of men and women admissions, related to the fields of study traditionally entered by men, and this change occurred before such ratios became illegal. As more and more women have come to Penn State and indeed are enrolling increasingly in such fields as engineering and agriculture, the ratio of women to men has become almost one to one. The original third verse of the Alma Mater, written 1901, with its reference only to men is no longer exclusively pertinent and fortunately Dr. Pattee foresaw this circumstance and sentiment in writing a revision over twenty years ago. The revision verse is:

"When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State."

(Editor's Note: Dr. Pattee's original third verse was as follows:

"When we stood at boyhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Into Men.")

As we begin this new term which introduces not only a New Year but the 200th anniversary year of our nation's founding, we can commit ourselves to the fullest response to our educational opportunities here at Penn State.