

Trustees accept Jordan's proposed budget strategy

By PHIL GUTIS
Collegian Staff Writer

After the adjournment motion at Friday's meeting of the Penn State Board of Trustees, nothing was clearer than the influence University President Bryce Jordan has had in less than three months on the job.

Before adjourning, the trustees had accepted Jordan's recommendations on strategic planning, budgeting and requesting state funds.

The board's committees on physical plant and finance Friday accepted Jordan's proposals for a state capital budget request of \$33.5 million for 1984-85. The finance committee also accepted Jordan's dramatic shift in methods of requesting a state appropriation and his proposed supplemental budget for 1983-84.

The board also accepted a motion by trustee Mimi U. Coppersmith, chairwoman of the board's Special Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action, which opened to the public all meetings of the affirmative action committee. The board's other advisory committee, the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Advisory Committee, will continue to meet in closed session.

Clearly, however, the University's planning shifted last week.

Although much of what Jordan proposed last week had been proposed to the board earlier and formulated with some trustee input throughout the summer, last week's board meeting served as a forum for public acceptance of Jordan's plans.

Perhaps most dramatic was the board's approval, with much commendation and no disagreement, of Jordan's proposed state appropriation request. For the first time in three years, the trustees approved a request that did not include an automatic increase in tuition.

And while both Jordan and board President Walter J.

Conti said that if the state does not approve the University's entire \$178.4 million request, a tuition increase or program cuts "on an ad hoc basis" may be necessary, therefore, both men strongly urged the state to act positively on the University's request.

"I believe that, as an institution, Penn State is underfunded with respect to the breadth and depth of programs we are expected to provide," Jordan said in his presentation to the finance committee. "I'm of the opinion that the financial exigencies through the years have impacted on the quality of Penn State."

Asked why he thinks the state will approve a 20 percent increase in its appropriation to the University — this year the University received a 4 percent increase in funding and was forced to raise tuition 9.2 percent — Jordan cited a possible upturn of the state economy and stressed that he will be personally lobbying legislators in Harrisburg.

"I will be in Harrisburg," Jordan said. "I won't be the chief University lobbyist — that's Fred Ciletti — but I will be there."

Later, at a news conference, Jordan added, "When I'm needed there and it is appropriate for me to be there, I will be there."

During his finance committee presentation, Jordan listed many comparisons that he said proved that although "Penn State is a cost-effective institution," it received the "lowest appropriation per student of any institution in the Commonwealth."

For example, the 14 state-owned institutions that comprise the State System of Higher Education had costs per student ranging from \$2,500 for Indiana University of Pennsylvania to \$5,300 for Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Jordan said.

In comparison, Penn State's cost per student — both graduate and undergraduate — is \$2,178, Jordan said.

For the four state-related institutions — the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University and Penn State — the average cost is \$2,517, he said.

Also, Jordan presented figures that he said illustrated the need of stopping 16 years' of consecutive tuition increases for University students.

Since 1972-73, tuition has increased 170 percent, Jordan said, adding that the state's appropriation has increased by only 77 percent.

"The information presents a picture of falling state support and increasing costs for students," Jordan said. "We think we must make some attempt to provide some relief to students and their families."

Therefore, Jordan said he did not think it is "unreasonable" to expect the state to be asked to shoulder more of the burden of funding Penn State.

In a statement before the board, Emil Parvensky, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, praised Jordan and the trustees for their approach to next year's budget.

"Students will stand directly behind you," Parvensky said to the board, offering to organize students to lobby legislators in Harrisburg. Jordan later called Parvensky's statement a "powerful weapon" for his efforts on the state capital.

Jordan also thinks the state should provide extra funding for the University in the capital request.

Here, the board approved the submission of a request for \$33.5 million in construction and improvement projects for the University's physical plant. This year's request is part of a five-year capital improvement program.

"The five-year program has several strategic functions," Jordan said. "Major emphasis is placed on changes in utility systems so that we can meet the long-range goal of minimizing energy consumption and funds

for improvements, repairs and renovations to extend the life of existing facilities."

Specifically, the University's capital request includes funding for seven construction projects:

- Renovations of laboratory space in Chandler and Mueller Laboratories of the College of Science — projected cost: \$5 million.
- Renovations to the Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering West buildings of the College of Engineering — \$9.5 million.
- Improvement to the Waste Water Treatment Plant at University Park — \$2.67 million.
- Additions to the Animal Industries Building and renovation of Borland Laboratory of the College of Agriculture — \$4.75 million.
- Reconstruction of portions of the electrical distribution system at University Park — \$2.95 million.
- Development of a new water supply system and improvements to the existing system at University Park — \$2.67 million.
- Major capital improvements to buildings, support systems and grounds throughout the University's system — \$3.2 million.
- Minor projects throughout the University system — \$2.34 million.

Jordan also accepted Jordan's proposal for the expenditure of an additional 2 percent increase in 1983-84 state appropriation.

Here, in the first example of what Jordan called strategic budgeting, the trustees accepted recommendations that the additional state funding be spent in nine areas including minority recruitment and retention, creation of a fund to replace scientific and technical equipment, the enhancement of the department of computer science and the development for young faculty scholars.

Plant show, sale draws large weekend crowd

By ANITA YESHO
Collegian Staff Writer

The 70th annual Horticulture Show attracted crowds of people who waited in line to enter the large tent in the flower gardens that housed the exhibits. The people strolled from display to display, admiring the work of Horticulture Club members who sponsored the show on Saturday and Sunday.

The exhibits, which combined displays and live plants, were examples of the show's theme, Horticulture — The Science Artfully Yours.

Although cider, mushrooms, pumpkins, gourds, and apples were sold at the show, the big attraction was the plant sale.

About two-thirds of the plants sold were foliage plants and the other third were flowering plants, said Rob Dillon (junior-horticulture), one of the students in charge of plant sales. The show included about 150 types of foliage plants and 20 types of flowering ones, Dillon said.

Some of the plants were grown by students, said Roland R. Daniels, one of the show's faculty advisers, while others were pur-

chased from nurseries. Lou Beccari (junior-horticulture), co-manager of the show, said three local nurseries donate their stock for use in the exhibits.

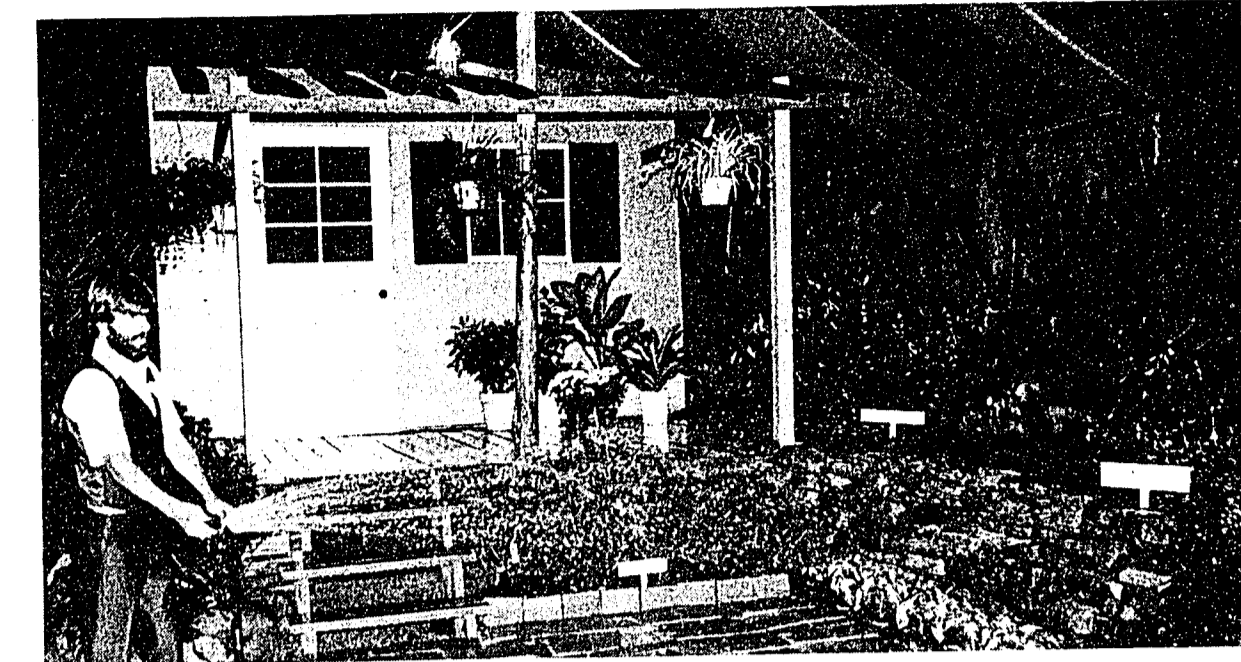
Most of the plants ranged in price from \$1 to \$15, although some tree-sized plants could be purchased for \$20 to \$30, Dillon said.

He said he believed Saturday's crowd was mostly people passing through on their way to the football game, so they did not buy much. Sunday is the show's big sale day because local residents can come to buy plants for their homes, he said.

Attendance for the past few years' shows has averaged about 20,000 people per weekend, said Beccari, and with the weekend's good weather this year's attendance should have matched that.

About \$80,000 worth of merchandise is used in the show, Beccari said.

The Horticulture Club has pledged \$3,000 of the show's profit to the construction of the Agricultural Arena, which is the site of next year's show. The arena is being built on Fox Hollow Road beside Beaver Stadium, next to the Meals Laboratory.



James Beletti (senior-horticulture) waters plants during the 70th annual Horticulture Show this past weekend.

The show was originally held in the livestock judging theater, which is now the Pavilion Theater. It was later moved to the ice skating rink and then to a large tent in the flower gardens behind East Halls, said Ernest L. Bergman, professor of plant nutrition, and one of the show's faculty advisers.

The show was traditionally held on homecoming weekend, Beccari said. But when it was moved to the tent, the date had to be moved up to a warmer time of the year. Next year's show will be held on homecoming weekend.

The Horticulture Club will not have to worry about the weather for next year's show because it will be indoors, Beccari said. He said this year the tent blew down and valuable preparation time was lost, although the show opened on schedule. Also, the lighting in the Agricultural Arena will be better than in the tent, Beccari said.

Although the Horticulture Club began planning this year's show

COG to discuss CATA budget

A proposal requiring a submission of the Centre Area Transportation Authority 1984-85 budget one month earlier is expected to highlight discussion at the Centre Region Council of Governments meeting tonight.

Also, the results of a Rental Housing Advisory Committee meeting last Monday may prompt much discussion because of recent housing ordinance developments in State College.

Paul Oversier, CATA manager, said State College Borough made the proposal to allow more time for budget review, but he does not see much support for it, especially after hearing the response at a COG executive committee meeting this month.

"It was clear support for the proposal came from the borough," Oversier said, "but the response from the townships was lukewarm."

The executive committee consists of one member from each of the governing bodies of State College Borough and Harris, College, Ferguson, Patton and Halfmoon Townships. However, Halfmoon does not participate in CATA services.

In other business, COG is expected to hear a preliminary report from its Rental Housing Advisory Committee Chairwoman Charlene Harrison on the results of a special RHAC meeting last Monday.

— by Harry R. Wells

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France-Cinema, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Ukrainian Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 320 HUB.
P.S. Pre-Vet Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 111 (A.L.) Henning.
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