

# University's lobby for more funds continues

By LISA HAARLANDER  
Collegian Staff Writer

University administrators went to Harrisburg for the second time last week to testify why the University needs more state funding.

For the second year in a row, Gov. Tom Ridge recommended that the University receive no increase in its state funding. The result could mean that students see a tuition hike of more than the usual increase of 4.5 percent and a possible increase in the computer fee.

The hearings in front of the state House Appropriations Committee were similar to the ones before the state Senate Appropriations Committee on Feb. 27, said John Brighton, executive vice president and provost.

Many of the senators' questions centered around agriculture and the need to increase funding in that area, he said. University President Graham Spanier also emphasized the University's need for \$4.5 million for technology, Brighton said. Spanier was the only faculty

member who testified for the University.

In February, Ridge recommended that the University receive \$21 million less than the \$298.5 million it requested.

"Usually the House is much more critical in their questioning," Brighton said. "And in this case, it turned out they were even more positive than the Senate was."

He said one senator even remembered having Spanier for a class when the president taught at the University.

The senator got an A in the class. But one member of the committee who was not present was state Rep. John Lawless, R-Montgomery.

Lawless held hearings earlier this year to determine how state-related and state-owned institutions were spending their money.

Another noticeable absence was the lack of students present at the hearings.

Last year, former Undergraduate Student Government President Mike King, former USG President Corey O'Brien, USG President

Kara Annechini and USG Town Senator Josh Pechter attended the hearings.

They also met with Ridge, Secretary of Education Eugene Hickok, Director of the Bureau of Post Secondary Services Barbara Doerson and a few state senators.

O'Brien resigned as president in August and Annechini is now USG president. King was president 1994-95.

USG Senate President Bill Rothwell said at least one student leader should have been in atten-

dance at the hearings and he is not sure why there were no students present.

"I'm concerned about it, but I haven't been able to talk to Kara about it," he said. "Someone should have been down there. At the very least, they should have talked to the legislators as they were leaving the room or get an appointment with them. I don't know why that didn't happen."

Annechini was in Florida during spring break and could not be reached for comment.

# CES students join administrators to lobby for state funding

By MEGAN DONLEY  
Collegian Staff Writer

With Gov. Tom Ridge's budget recommendation falling \$21 million short of the University's request, students in the Commonwealth Educational System are joining forces with administrators to lobby for more state funding.

Director of Commonwealth Relations Helen Caffrey said she has been conducting teleconferences with the campuses to discuss lobbying strategies and the budget.

"We're just gearing up for equipping them with information," Caffrey said. "I'm very pleased with the efforts both here

and at the Commonwealth Campuses."

Ridge recommended the University receive \$298.5 million — \$21 million less than its request to the state. Without increased state funding, the University may increase tuition more than the usual 4.5 percent.

University President Graham Spanier lobbied the state Senate Appropriations Committee for more state funding on Feb. 27 in Harrisburg.

Caffrey said legislative advocacy networks have formed at the campuses that include students, faculty and administrators to help do their part in lobbying.

"We've been sharing with the campuses

some very exciting ideas that are happening here," Caffrey said. "The campuses are a very key element."

Matthew Plocki, Council of Commonwealth Student Governments coordinator, agreed the campuses play a big part in lobbying.

"The campuses have an advantage in lobbying due to the fact they can reach so many different legislators," he added.

But Plocki said he does not think the Commonwealth Campuses — with the exception of the DuBois Campus, which is holding a phone-a-thon to legislators — are doing enough to lobby for more funding.

"I think the campuses could be doing far

more," he said. "They need to get on the ball and start contacting their legislators."

Jason Getz, CCSG governmental affairs director, also said the DuBois Campus and its student government association are working hard to lobby for more state funds.

"I do believe that the campuses are working on getting lobbying efforts together in conjunction with legislative advocacy networks," Getz said. "Thus far, I know (DuBois Campus SGA President) Sandra Dorsey has really put forth a tremendous effort in lobbying. Her type of leadership is just the type of direction all campus SGAs need to take."

Thane Fake, York Campus SGA president, said although the campus did not sponsor any large petition drives this year, students have been active with local legislators.

"Once a semester we invite all the local legislators to come and meet with students, faculty and staff and spend a day at the campus," he said. "The best lobbying we can do is to let them see firsthand the benefits of our campus to the community."

Delaware County SGA President Mike Hyde said his campus meets with local legislators and invites them to visit.

"They were very interested and liked what we had going on," Hyde added.

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