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University of Massachusetts Boston

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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 16

December 17, 1974

A Target Budget and the Life of a University

President Robert Wood forcefully brought to public attention last week what a proposed target budget for public higher education in the Commonwealth by the new administration would mean to the programs of the University of Massachusetts.

At a press conference attended by Chancellor Carlo Golino and Chancellor Randolph Bromery of the Amherst campus, Dr. Wood said:

"The budget requested by the Trustees for the next fiscal year is \$118 million. More than 90 percent of that request is intended simply to meet fixed costs and keep up with inflation. We have recommended no increases in enrollment or in faculty size except in the Medical School and in the newest Colleges in Boston. And we have made it clear that any new programs throughout the University must increasingly be supported from existing resources--in other words, that painful choices must be made internally and that some present programs must be eliminated if we are to have new ones.

"The incoming administration has established target figures for each cabinet office for FY 1976, and Governor-elect Dukakis has indicated he regards these figures as focal points for the budgetary decisions facing his administration in its first several months. I think it is appropriate, therefore, to look at the implications of the target figure for higher education.

"Assuming that the cuts in budgets for the various segments of higher education are spread equally among the segments, the target figure for the University of Massachusetts is \$67.3 million.

"It's useful to look at that figure in two different ways.

"One way to look at it is that it is just slightly greater than the University's budget three years ago, in FY 1972. But between then and now--in response to the mandates of the General Court or to economic conditions which have affected all of us:

- The price of coal has increased from \$20 to \$75 a ton.
- Salaries of all state employees have gone up by some 15 percent as the result of mandatory cost of living increases.
- The Medical School has moved from a converted warehouse to a new facility, and its enrollment has nearly quadrupled.
- The University at Boston, intended to respond to the educational needs of the urban area, has moved into its new Harbor Campus, with 50 percent more students and \$130 million worth of physical plant to maintain and staff.

"So both inflation and a growth process set in motion a decade ago have had their impacts on the University's budget.

"Let us look at the budget target in another way: the target figure of \$67.3 million is roughly the same as the present state appropriation for the Amherst campus alone. But it is less than that campus will need to meet its fixed cost commitments for the next fiscal year. In other words, the proposed budget for the next year might sustain the University, with some cuts, if we did not have a Boston campus with nearly 7,000 students, and if we did not have a Worcester campus, with 152 students and 18 applications from Massachusetts residents for every space.

"So it is clear that the target figure would strike at the heart of the University. In looking at those cuts, we have to start from a base figure of \$109.4 million--this year's budget translated, because of the anticipated inflation, into 1975-76 dollars.

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Applied across the University, those cuts could mean:

- The layoff of 1,800 permanent employees, a third of the authorized total;
- The reduction of enrollment by 9,000 full time equivalent students, the equivalent of simply not admitting any freshmen, transfer or graduate students we would otherwise expect to admit;
- A cut of student aid and student employment by 50 percent--meaning that lower and lower-middle income students simply wouldn't be able to afford to attend, and incidentally jeopardizing the receipt of federal aid.

"We would also have to shut down many buildings on campus, close all three campuses for extended periods, curtail or stop all public service programs, stop buying library books and periodicals, and face default on the debt obligations of such facilities as dormitories, because there would be fewer students to support them.

"And it is doubtful, even then, that we would be able to maintain an educational program worthy of the students who would remain--both because of the financial steps necessary and because the reputation and standing of the University in the academic community would be ruined and the investments of a hundred years wasted."

Wood also asserted that "it would be the ultimate insult to the young people of the Commonwealth to ask them to meet the financial needs of Massachusetts by paying substantially higher rates of tuition in public institutions. Any substantial increase in tuition could only serve to deny access to education, for state scholarship aid has never kept up with costs. The revenue to be gained by a major tuition increase would be a short-term asset offset by long-term deficits in the human potential of this Commonwealth.

"With my colleagues in public higher education, I stand ready to meet with the Governor-elect and his staff, and to work with him in meeting the financial needs of the Commonwealth, while preserving the University's progress. But I will not stand by silently while a great resource for the Commonwealth's people, built over decades, is wasted just to fit theoretical targets artificially established."

Library Exhibits

The Library has an exhibit of Four Contemporary Printmakers through January 31, 1975 on the fourth floor: "'The Girl,' a new short story by Joyce Carol Oates," is an exhibit showing in detail the production of a limited edition from the Pomegranate Press, with six original silkscreen-linoleum cut prints by Karyl Klopp; on the tenth floor: "Franz Kafka, an exhibit in Memory of the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Death," has prints illustrating his work by Claire Van Vliet and Jerome Kaplan in volumes from the Janus Press, and two sets of drawings, dated 1947 and 1966, by Hans Fronius.

Bilingual Program

The Bilingual Pre-College Program, sponsored jointly by UMass-Boston (through the Institute for Learning and Teaching) and Boston Public Schools, got under way on November 18 with 45 high school seniors participating.

The students, from five Boston High Schools, represent a variety of cultural backgrounds. They attend classes here two afternoons a week, focussing on the improvement of basic skills through the study of the experiences of Hispanic peoples in the United States.

Ten UMass-Boston upperclassmen, the majority of whom are Spanish-speaking, were selected as tutors and peer-counselors for the program participants. Program's staff also includes two teachers and two curriculum developers.

The program, funded under a Title VII grant, will continue through May; students will then enter the summer Bridge Program and enter the University in September.

Sociology II Faculty Activities

Peter Marris is joining the Department as a Visiting Professor for the Spring Semester. He will be teaching political sociology and social movements. Professor Marris is the author of books on modernization and urbanization in Africa, large-scale social action programs, and the management of personal loss. His most recent book, Loss and Change, received a full-page favorable review in the November 10th New York Times.

Harry Brill is joining with faculty members at several other universities in a study on non-traditional professional schools. He is responsible for an assessment of the Antioch Law School in Washington. He is also directing a study of abandonment of housing sponsored by Citizens Housing and Planning Association of Boston.

Lawrence Kamara read a paper entitled "Tribal Pluralism and Nation Building in Sierra Leone as Revealed by Symbol Analysis" at the meetings of the African Studies Association in Chicago.

JoAnne Preston read a paper entitled "Pacification and Pedagogy: Teaching Becomes Women's Work" at the Berkshire Women's History Conference held at Harvard University.

Howard Rotblat's paper, "Stability and Change in an Iranian Provincial Bazaar," will be published in Economic Development and Cultural Change in the January issue.

Nancy St. John's book, School Desegregation: Outcome for Children, will appear in January. It is a review of 102 studies of the effects of desegregation on the achievement, motivation, and intergroup attitudes of elementary and secondary school students. Professor St. John has recently been elected Chairman of the section on Education of the American Sociological Association.

Sharon Stichter has just returned from a conference of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom, Liverpool, where she gave a paper on the working class in Kenya. She will be attending another conference on the political economy of Kenya, to be held this coming June at Cambridge University in England.

Robert Weiss's book, The First Year of Bereavement (co-authored with Ira Glick and Colin Parkes), is scheduled for publication in January. His article, "The Provisions of Social Relationships," will appear in Doing Unto Others, a book edited by Zick Rubin, also scheduled to appear in January. He will be giving a paper at the meetings of the American Orthopsychiatry Association in Washington this coming April. His topic will be helping individuals deal with life situations for which they are unprepared.

Gordon Zahn is a member of a special consultation team organized by the U.S. Catholic Conference on the subject of "International Law and the Morality of War." He also addressed the New England chapter of the Catholic Philosophical Association on the subject of "The Philosopher's Role in Research on War and Peace."

Recruiter

Professor Ernest I. Becker (Chemistry) addressed Chelsea High School juniors and seniors on "Careers in Chemistry" on December 12, in behalf of the American Chemical Society and UMass-Boston.

Bus Schedules

EXAM PERIOD - Dec. 13, thru Dec. 19: (see below for Fri. Dec. 20, last day of exams)

Lv. Columbia Sta. (busway): 6:25 a.m., 6:40, 6:52, 7:00 then frequent service until 6:54 p.m. then every 12 mins. until 8:42 p.m., 9:02*, 9:17*, 9:32*, 9:47*, 10:02*, 10:17*.

Lv. UMB (G-2 busway, Admin. Bldg.): 6:32 a.m., 6:45, 6:58, 7:05 then frequent service until 6:48 p.m. then every 12 mins. until 8:36 p.m., 8:54*, 9:09*, 9:24*, 9:39*, 9:54* 10:09*, 10:35*.

LAST DAY OF EXAMS - Fri. Dec. 20:

Lv. Columbia Sta. (busway) 6:25 a.m., 6:40, 6:52, 7:00, then frequent service until 6:42 p.m., 6:54.

Lv. UMB (G-2 busway, Admin. Bldg.) 6:32 a.m., 6:45, 6:58, 7:05, then frequent service until 6:48 p.m., 7:00.

VACATION PERIOD - Dec. 23, 1974 thru Jan. 10, 1975

Lv. Columbia Sta. (busway) 6:25 a.m., 6:41, 6:57, 7:09, 7:17, 7:24, then every 6 mins. until 5:42 p.m. then every 12 mins. until 6:54 p.m.

Lv. UMB (G-2 busway, Admin. Bldg.) 6:33 a.m., 6:49, 7:03, 7:15, 7:23, 7:30, then every 6 mins. until 5:48 p.m. then every 12 mins. until 7:00 p.m.

NOTES: * All trips to or from Columbia Sta. after 9:00 p.m. use main entrance on Columbia Rd.
No service Wed. Dec. 25, or Wed. Jan. 1, 1975.

WEEKEND SHUTTLE SERVICE:

Saturday service will operate Dec. 7 and 14.

Sunday service will operate Dec. 8 and 15.

No weekend service between Dec. 16 and Jan. 13, 1975

SATURDAY (operated by Physical Plant with University vans)

Lv. Columbia Sta. (busway): 8:40 a.m. then every 20 mins. until 6:20 p.m.

Lv. UMB (G-2 busway, Admin. Bldg.): 8:30 a.m., then every 20 mins. until 6:10 p.m.

SUNDAY (operated by Physical Plant with University vans)

Lv. Columbia Sta. (main entrance on Columbia Rd.): 11:40 a.m. then every 20 min. until 6:20 p.m.

Lv. UMB (G-2 busway, Admin. Bldg.): 11:30 a.m. then every 20 mins. until 6:10 p.m.

Sunday service operates to main entrance of Columbia Sta. on Columbia Rd.

MBTA services will continue to operate on present schedules through Dec. 27, 1974. New timetables will become effective Dec. 28. MBTA will be changing both Park Sq. and Forest Hills schedules. Full information will be included in the Spring semester service guide available about Jan. 6, 1975.

Automatic Payroll Deposit System

There have been negotiations with many banks for an employee's free checking account when your check is deposited by the University in your bank account.

Complete the questionnaire concerning your banking interests and return immediately to the Personnel office via campus mail. The new system will be implemented as soon as possible. It will take time to analyze the information to develop new policies and procedures.