

BHE retrenchment proposal denounced

By David Wysoki

The Board of Higher Education retrenchment proposal, which was offered by the Board as a method to implement an additional \$56-million cut mandated by Melvin Lechner, Director of the Bureau of the Budget last week, was denounced yesterday by various members of the University community at an open hearing of the BHE as being "untenable," "unconscionable," and "exemplary of the bankrupt leadership offered by the Board."

Approximately 3000 students and faculty members from various branches of the University were on hand outside the offices of the BHE protesting any further reductions in the University budget while the open hearing was being held inside.

Opposition to the proposal, which is expected to come up for a vote at next Monday's meeting, was led by Congressman Herman Badillo and Professional Staff Congress President Belle Zeller, both of whom asked the Board to refrain from enacting this latest budget cut until "the city can give an exact dollar figure of its deficit."

The Board proposal, if enacted, would cut the \$56-million from

this Spring's semester budget as follows:

- Suspend all February admissions, thereby keeping 20-thousand students from entering City University; a savings of \$4-million.

- Close the University during Christmas and Spring recess; \$1-million.

- Consolidate programs, as well as administrative, support and instructional staff; \$9-million.

- Count anticipated Summer session fees towards the Spring 1976 budget; \$9-million.

- Implement four-week, pay-less furloughs for faculty, administrative, and support staff, \$32-million.

BHE Chairman Alfred Giardino defended the retrenchment proposal by saying "the Board has been told to implement this cut."

According to University officials, if the Board refuses to implement the \$56-million cut, which is called "the penalty in lieu of tuition," Lechner's office will simply remove \$32-million of the city's share of the University budget, the other \$24-million to be removed by the state.

According to one spokesman, the city is "willing to go so far as halting all funds for the University as of Dec. 1 if the Board doesn't implement this cut by that time."

One Board member, who asked not to be named, said "the Board has been told to implement this cut or they will be removed from their positions."

Zeller, who said she recognized the "tremendous amount of political pressure being leveled at the Board," hastened to add that the retrenchment proposal is "illustrative of the failure of the Board to give the appropriate leadership necessary for CUNY."

"The proposal is patently unfair," she said, "and would place an unfair burden on the staff of the University."

"We will fight without you if we must," she said directing her statements to the Board. "We will fight against you if we must," she added.

David Walinsky, Chairman of the University Faculty Senate called for the resignation of the members of the Board for acting in an "evasive" and "de-

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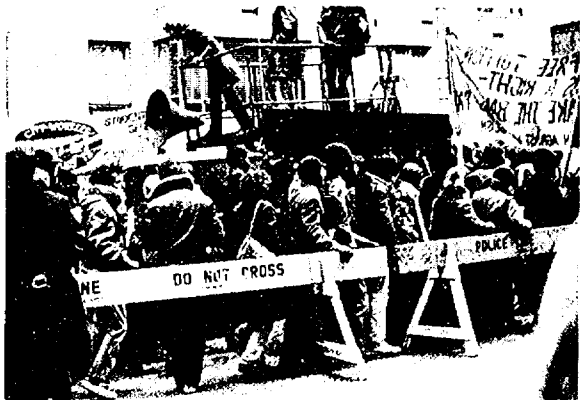


Photo by GAD/Gregory Durnick

Students demonstrating outside offices of the BHE in protest over the Board's retrenchment proposals.

Kibbee wants more state aid; requests \$578-million for '76

By David Wysoki

City University Chancellor Robert Kibbee announced last week his proposal for the University's 1976-77 budget, which includes a major reorganization of the University, the preservation of free tuition, and an increase in state funding for City University, from the present one third of the total operating budget to fully half.

The proposed request of \$577.9-million would keep the university's budget at approximately the same level for the third straight year, "although, in real terms," according to the chancellor's report, "it represents a reduction of 20 per cent from the current year," due to increased enrollment and inflation.

"This minimal budget," the report added, "will entail major changes in the University, including restructuring of its programs and activities."

The chancellor's budget request is based on three major premises, as follows:

- The city has indicated that it will provide only \$196.1-million as its share of the University's operating costs, a reduction of \$41.6-million from its contribution to the 1975-76 budget.

- The state will bear "its fair share of financial responsibility" for the City University and will not continue to perpetuate "the inequity of funding" between the State and City university systems. The state currently funds city University at approximately one-third the level it funds the State University.

- The free tuition policy will remain intact for all matriculated undergraduate residents of New York City.

The chancellor's report, which proposed only "an interim funding plan," specifically called for a 50-50 city and state sharing of all University expenses. Under present legislation, the state's share of the University's budget is less than 40 per cent, with the

city and state splitting the cost of the senior colleges equally, after subtracting student fees and tuition, which is approximately 20 per cent. Under Kibbee's arrangement, the student tuition and fees would be considered part of the city's contribution to the University and the state would match that increased total.

Kibbee's proposed \$577.9-million budget for 1976-77 would then be broken down as follows:

- City contribution, \$196.1-million.

- State aid, \$248.5-million, an increase of \$30.4-million from this year's state contribution.

- Fees, \$82-million.
- Federal Aid, \$6.6-million.
- Other, \$4.8-million.

- City University Construction Fund \$39.9-million. This is the portion of student fees in senior CUNY colleges which are used as insurance on the city's half of the costs of CUNY construction. The state agency, the Dormitory Authority which is responsible for all college construction in the state, issues bonds to pay for the work. The University normally receives most of the money back, which it then uses for operating expenses.

However, Kibbee's plan, which is essentially the same funding plan the Board of Higher Education devised last year, would require new state legislative action, action that was decidedly in the negative last year when the same funding reorganization plan then came before the legislature.

The entire budget package, when approved by the BHE, must be submitted to the Mayor, who must submit his certified budget for the University to the governor Dec. 1.



Chancellor Robert Kibbee

Budget cut summary

By Dale Brichta

In July of this year, City University implemented an \$87-million reduction in its operating budget for the 1975-76 academic year, \$30-million of which was made up in increased student fees, in addition to a 57-million reduction in program and staff payrolls.

When the University refused to implement State University tuition levels, an additional \$32-million cut was imposed, which would turn into a \$56-million reduction when including state differential funding.

The University originally refused to implement these cuts in mid-October, claiming that they did not know from which budget the cuts were to be based, from the original budget of 1975-76 or from the July 28 austerity budget.

University officials say that they were not aware until the term started that the cuts would have to be absorbed into the budget by June 31, the end of the fiscal year, and by then it was too late to implement them for the Fall semester.

Recently, as part of the city's \$200-million reduction, the University has been mandated to remove another \$4.5 million from its budget (which carries with it an additional \$3.2 million in state funds). This cut, if implemented, would be a permanent annualized reduction, \$70-million cut for the 1976-77 University operating budget.

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Avoiding the press

Not only is the Board of Higher Education doing little except talk, they're trying to hide even that little bit by excluding the great majority of the student press. To allow only three representatives for more than 60 University radio stations and newspapers to attend a "public" meeting can be seen as nothing except a clumsy attempt to obscure the Board's deliberations, no matter what rhetoric is offered about "overcrowding."

When considering actions that will affect the CUNY student body in such a drastic manner as these propositions will, to restrict coverage to the point of allowing representatives of only 5 per cent of the CUNY media in is stupid, ill-considered, and counterproductive. We urge all student press members to make their displeasure known to the Board's Public Relations Office.

BHE window-dressing

There's only three words for what the Board of Higher Education has been doing since August: denial, evasion, and dissembling.

To quote one college president, everything the BHE has done so far is "mere window-dressing." We agree wholeheartedly. Some examples:

- The proposals that the state take over a greater share of the funding of the University is one unchanged since last year, when it was defeated in the State Legislature. They're dragging this old tired one out again in new clothes, hoping someone will be fooled.

- The Board has been informed that the proposals concerning furloughs were not acceptable to the city because they are illegal. They are, nonetheless, planning to go ahead and vote on a proposal that even if passed will be unacceptable to the Bureau of the Budget.

- The proposal that student admissions in February will have to be cancelled. This is, to us, quite unbelievable. What provisions have been made for these students? Why were they not notified that their accept-

ance was highly doubtful—as University officials have known all along.

- Why does the Board keep telling us that free tuition will be saved, when they know the political climate of the country and city will not permit it? They have, in fact been planning for it since late summer, when they hired a former official of the Educational Testing Service who was in charge of Parents Confidential Statements for Financial Aid, with the explanation that they needed someone who could deal with financial aid in a tuition situation.

- The members of the Board have delayed time and again what they know they must do. They have even succeeded in delaying their vote till Dec. 1 — the day the University's plans are due in the Mayor's office — conveniently leaving no time for the discussion and protest they know will follow.

They act like they're trying to call somebody's bluff — only no one is bluffing, and the more they delay, the deeper trouble we're going to be in.

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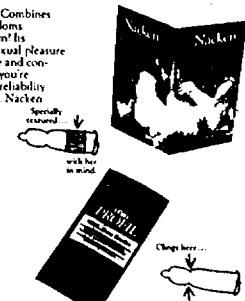
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Cutbacks assailed at Board hearing

3 • THE CAMPUS • Tuesday, November 25, 1975

(Continued from Page 1)
visive manner" while purporting to carry on business as usual."
"The Board knows clearly that this proposal is doomed to failure," he said, "and would carry out actions that are unacceptable and of a dubious legal nature."
Walinsky was referring to the implementation of mandatory four week furloughs for all faculty, which has been denounced as "patently illegal" by Zeller, as well as, considered of questionable legality by Lechner's office.

Badillo, who said he was speaking on behalf of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the legislature, wondered "why the BHE is rushing to implement a cut when nobody knows the size of the city's deficit."

"The BHE is capitulating even before the budget cuts have been made official," he said, adding

that the members of the Board "are acting as if there was a panic that really doesn't exist."

President Robert Marshak said he "basically" agreed with Badillo's position. "It is difficult to react to the proposal," Marshak said, adding that he felt the BHE should table the retrenchment resolution.

"We should first try all out to persuade the state to give back the \$60-million," it originally appropriated for City University, he said.

Marshak said he would like to see a SUNY-NYC system implemented, with the University considered a second state sys-

tem receiving a "fair share of state support."

A resolution issued by the Council of Presidents which urged adoption of the retrenchment proposal "in principle" only, stated that they "no longer believe that the principle of free tuition and open admissions can be maintained along with the fundamental principle of academic excellence in light of the current and future budget reductions."

The Council urged that immediate discussions be initiated with appropriate state officials "for complete State participation in the funding and operation of City University."

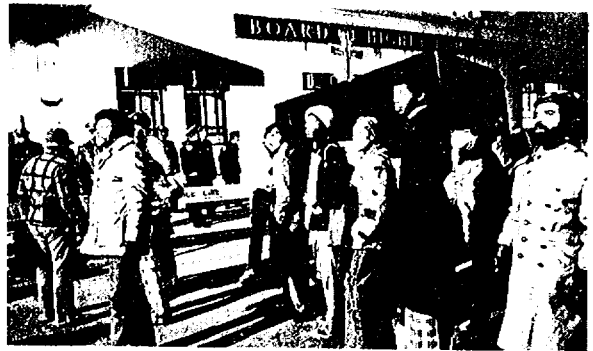


Photo by OAD/Gregory Durnlok
"Pallbearers" with CUNY coffin at the BHE last night.

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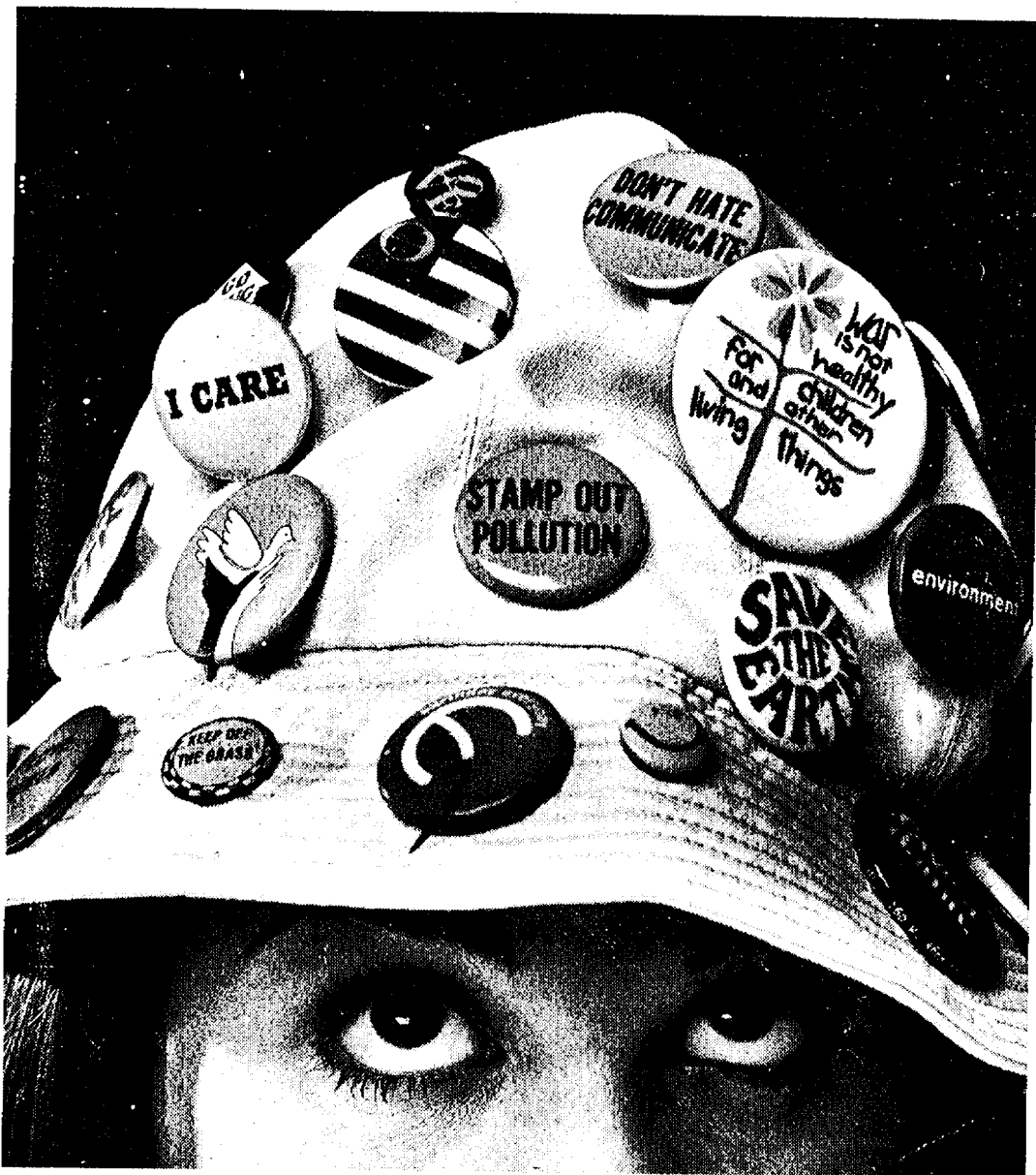
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