OSU Labor Education tries for budget share

By Matt Wagner
Lantern staff writer

The Labor Education Service at Ohio State is fighting for its share of the state budget, an amount that could range between zero and $3.3 million.

State officials are deciding what the appropriate amount should be for the university’s service to Ohio’s organized labor in the fields of education, research and health and safety.

Sandra L. Jordan, assistant director of the Labor Education Service, said OSU employees plan and conduct tailor-made courses on such topics as bargaining and negotiating for the Ohio labor movement. These courses are non-credit, continuing education classes for unions and labor organizations. Jordan said they also conduct research activities for any labor organization requesting the service.

The program received $2.4 million in the two-year budget ending June 30. For the next budget period, Gov. Richard F. Celeste allocated $2.46 million.

THE OHIO House of Representatives, controlled by Democrats, raised Celeste's figure to $3.3 million in its 1990-1991 budget, while the Republican-controlled Ohio Senate proposed nothing.

Herb Asher, special assistant to OSU President Edward H. Jennings, has been lobbying for the money in both the House and Senate. Asher said the Senate is not providing money in its version of the budget, probably because there are other programs to which they give a higher priority.

"We're hopeful that they'll keep the money in for the program," Asher said. "If there isn't full funding, the program won't survive.

Sen. Gene Watts, R-Galloway, led Senate Republicans by taking the initiative to cut the program from its budget.

"It's an inappropriate expenditure of tax dollars," Watts said. "It's not in association with higher education."

WATTS SAID organized labor should be paying for its own education and research instead of using taxpayer's dollars.

John Hodges, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, said employers from across the state are saying they want educated workers, and this program provides that education. Without the money from the state, Hodges said there is no way labor could pay enough to keep the program alive.

"Labor survives by being experts in their fields," Hodges said.

According to Hodges, more than 150 people attend a week of summer classes arranged by the Labor Education Service.

"We're going to work very hard to get the money back," Hodges said. "I believe it will be reinstated."
College plans to consolidate LERS

By Tom Spring

Because of deep cuts in budget, the University has phased down the Academic Faculty of Labor Education and Research Service.

The program's budget this year is one-fourth of last year's.

The funding constraints and priorities for available resources also have led to a recommendation to abolish LERS.

Labor Education, an academic unit of the College of Business, supports organized labor through continuing education programs and research in leadership, citizenship, health and safety.

The unit has been funded through a line-item account in the state's higher education budget section.

Last year, Labor Education received $1.2 million. This year and next, though, the program will get only $257,000 annually.

"The process that's being followed is one that attempts to operate the programs at the minimal level provided by the funding," says Joseph A. Alutto, dean of the College of Business.

"There's not much more we can do except to look at the effects of the resizing of the department on overall effectiveness and viability."

Frederick E. Hutchinson, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, and Alutto have decided to consolidate all Labor Education programs on the Columbus campus. Five of nine staff positions have been eliminated.

As a result of the consolidation, regional LERS offices in Akron, Cincinnati and Toledo have been closed.

The faculty who were in those offices now are carrying on their normal program responsibilities in Columbus, says David H. Boyne, associate provost.

Secretaries were offered assistance in finding other positions on the Columbus campus or other jobs in their present locations, he adds.

The provost and dean also have announced that proceedings will be initiated to abolish the department in accordance with normal University procedures for such actions.

Such an action must be approved by the Council on Academic Affairs, the University Senate and the Board of Trustees.

Attempts are being made to transfer the faculty members to other departments. Seven have tenure and are assured of continuing employment. The one faculty member without tenure was notified that his position will be eliminated Aug. 31, 1992.

"We are continuing to explore possibilities for LERS faculty with other departments," Boyne says. So far, one faculty member has transferred.

In addition, those who are eligible for early retirement have been offered full salary for one additional year if they apply for retirement by Oct. 1.
OSU plans to scrap department, buy out 7 on faculty

By Tim Dothin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

CLEVELAND — The Ohio State University plans to dissolve the Labor Education and Research Service because of a lack of funding.

The Board of Trustees yesterday authorized the president's office to negotiate buyouts of the seven tenured faculty members in the department.

The department, in the College of Business, worked with organized labor to provide leadership training and training in dealing with issues like safety in the workplace. It also served as a research component, looking into issues that affect organized labor.

The department is located on the Columbus campus. Until recently, there were four regional offices around the state. The regional offices have been closed.

The shutdown was prompted by the state's reducing the department's budget to about $300,000, about $900,000 less than in the last biennium.

The department is funded through a line-item appropriation, separate from the general state appropriation for most of the university, OSU Provost Frederick E. Hutchinson said.

"They simply did not get the money from the state, and it does not look like there is any intention on the part of the state to reinstate that funding," he said.

"In the university's current budget situation, we simply cannot afford to take money from our other programs to give to this department."

Hutchinson said the university will attempt to negotiate a buyout of each tenured faculty member in the department. If a settlement is not reached, the faculty member will be given another job at the university.

The department's eighth faculty member, who does not have tenure, will have one year to find work elsewhere, Hutchinson said.

Some programs of the department will be taught by faculty members in other departments, Hutchinson said.

The University Senate's Council of Academic Affairs and the full University Senate must give approval before the trustees officially dissolve the department, not likely before December.

Yesterday's trustee meeting was at the Cleveland Clinic. Earlier in the day, OSU trustees and officials toured the clinic and heard reports from clinic medical staff members and OSU researchers on the progress of the joint affiliation started this year.

Under the affiliation, some clinic staff members will be made OSU faculty members and some OSU medical students will be sent to the clinic for training.

In other board action:

• Mac A. Stewart was named dean of the University College. He has been the acting dean since July 1, 1990, and will earn $82,000 a year.

• The Plough Pharmacy Student Scholarship Fund was established with a $752,192 gift from the Plough Foundation of Memphis, Tenn. Full-time undergraduate students in the College of Pharmacy will be eligible for scholarships from the fund.
Tenured faculty seeks jobs

State cuts end OSU department

By Gretchen Wilhelm
Lantern staff writer

Tenured faculty members of Ohio State’s Labor Education and Research Services, which had its state funding cut in August, must decide today if they will find another position at the university, take a monetary settlement or accept early retirement.

The authorization to negotiate a settlement with the faculty was approved by the Board of Trustees at their Oct. 3 meeting. The university is proposing to eliminate the organization.

"I've been at Ohio State since 1973, and I do not like to see the program go down the drain," said John Maronne, a tenured associate professor of labor education.

Marrone, 45, said the two-year salary settlement the university is offering is not very good. He said people over 40 have difficulty finding a job in such a specialized field.

The tenured faculty must make these decisions because the state of Ohio reduced the line item budget of the organization, which is separate from University funding. The original $1.2 million budget was reduced by $900,000, leaving a new budgetary balance of $300,000.

This leaves the service with little money to continue the program, said Frederick Hutchinson, senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

Sen. Eugene Watts, R-Ohio, who lobbied for the closure of the service said, "The state should not be paying money into specific line items, but into the general funds of the universities so that the presidents can make their own decisions about what to fund."

"I don't think LERS was operating in the way it should have been. It has been helping unions organize with state tax dollars," he said.

"The university's rules state that first the program should be formally eliminated and then the funding should be cut, not vice versa," said Dave Patton, a tenured associate professor of Labor Education.

"Most conservative Republicans have viewed the service as an unnecessary subsidy for labor," Patton said.

Patton, who has been with Ohio State since 1989, said that he would like to stay here, and that the University is acting very honorably.

"It is sad to lose the service because Ohio State will be one of only a few Big Ten schools that will not have a labor education department," Maronne said.

The university will provide a position for those faculty members who choose to stay, Hutchinson said. He said he has already found three possible positions.

Patton said there was probably another reason why the funding for the service was cut, besides Senator Watts' vigorous opposition to it.

"It appears that organized labor looked at our service differently than in the past. We had signals from the beginning that money was tight and labor wasn't lobbying as hard," Patton said.

"After a time we have to stop and re-analyze where we are in funding, we cannot do all things to all people," said Deborah Castro, OSU Board of Trustees member.

The service provided non-credit workshops and conferences on collective bargaining, contract negotiations and leadership for union leaders on the local and state level to become better leaders, Patton said.

Hutchinson said that while the university is proposing to do away with the department with the $300,000 left in its budget, Ohio State would continue to give leadership to labor using existing faculty.
Council vote is next step to end LERS

By David Tull

Despite a procedural challenge, the Council on Academic Affairs on Feb. 5 voted to recommend elimination of the Department of Labor, Education and Research Service (LERS) in the College of Business.

Ohio State's chapter of the American Association of University Professors challenged the proposal to eliminate LERS, contending that "the decision to eliminate a department must be made primarily by the (business) faculty and for essentially educational considerations. These considerations must relate to the long-term educational mission of the University as a whole."

In November the business faculty had voted to discontinue LERS. The unit is funded by a state line-item appropriation. This year, state cuts took away nearly $1 million of its $1.2 million budget.

AAUP president John D. Blackburn, associate professor of finance, urged the council to return the proposal to the college faculty, asking them to base their decision on educational and not financial considerations. "In arriving at its decision, the college faculty must rise above a parochial perspective and act as citizens of the University," he added.

Joseph Alutto, dean of the College of Business, told the council that "we discussed at length how this would affect the educational mission" not only of the college but of the institution as a whole.

The mission of LERS "was not connected to the central educational mission of the college," he said. "If it can be relocated in the University, that's for someone else to decide."

The council concluded that proper procedure had been followed and accepted a subcommittee report recommending a vote to eliminate LERS.

The council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. The termination recommendation now goes to the University Senate Feb. 29, according to Charles Corbatò, chair of the council and associate provost. If approved by the Senate, it will go to the Board of Trustees.
OSU senate votes to close photography, labor service units

The University Senate at The Ohio State University voted yesterday to recommend elimination of the Department of Photography and Cinema and the Labor Education and Research Service.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the OSU Board of Trustees.

Budget constraints facing the university played a part in both recommendations.

Donald Harris, dean of the College of the Arts, proposed last May to terminate the Photography and Cinema Department, citing a tight budget and a history of infighting by faculty members. Under the proposal, the photography program would be moved to the Department of Art and the cinema and video programs would become part of the Theater Department.

About 300 undergraduate and graduate students will be allowed to finish degree programs offered by the department. Some students said the quality of the degrees will suffer.

Seven faculty members from the department have been assigned to the other departments, although still housed in the Haskett Hall.

The Labor Education and Research Service, in the College of Business, works with organized labor to provide leadership training and training in dealing with such issues as safety in the workplace.

It also serves as a research component, looking into issues that affect organized labor.

The shutdown was prompted by the state's reducing the service's budget to about $300,000, about $900,000 less than in the last biennium.

The service is funded through a line-item appropriation, separate from the general state appropriation for most of the university.

The service has eight faculty members. The university has negotiated contract buyouts of faculty members or reassigned them to other departments.
BOARD ABOLISHES TWO DEPARTMENTS

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio State University Board of Trustees on Friday (3/6) abolished the departments of Photography and Cinema and of Labor Education and Research Service.

The photography and cinema abolition takes effect immediately. LERS will be abolished June 30.

The decision followed the University Senate's vote on Feb. 29 to recommend termination of the departments.

There were several months of debate and postponements as the proposals worked their way through university governing bodies.

LERS is a unit of the College of Business primarily engaged in providing non-credit continuing education to workers and the leadership of labor organizations within Ohio. It was funded through a separate line-item in the state budget, which in this fiscal year was cut from $1.2 million to $297,000.

Lack of sufficient funding, coupled with a low priority rating for the activities of LERS in a recent faculty-generated planning document for the College of Business, led to the decision to abolish the department.

The non-credit continuing education experiences offered by LERS can be accomplished through other university programs. There are no students in the department. All tenure commitments to faculty in the department will be honored.

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Contact: Charles Corbato, associate provost, 292-5881. Written by David Sonderman
Trustees, Senate vote to abolish departments

Pleas don’t save Photo and Cinema department; LERS will stop operations in June
By David Sonderman

The Board of Trustees has voted to abolish the departments of Photography and Cinema and of Labor Education and Research Service.

The photography and cinema abolition takes effect immediately. LERS will be abolished June 30.

The decision March 6 came after the University Senate recommended the departments’ termination. The Senate voted at its Feb. 29 meeting to make the recommendation.

College of the Arts administrators said the photography and cinema department has had problems of leadership and management. Difficulties in delivering undergraduate and graduate programs in an optimal manner, and failed to recruit and retain faculty.

At the Senate meeting Feb. 29, two photography and cinema faculty members and a student made impassioned pleas on behalf of the department. Those pleas followed several months of debate and postponement. Last December, the Senate sent the proposal back to the College of the Arts.

Nathan Fechheimer, a member of the Senate’s committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, was one of those who had argued against the proposal. He had voiced concern that the entire faculty of the College of the Arts had not properly discussed and voted on the proposals.

“We are now satisfied that (proper procedures) are formally met,” Fechheimer told the Senate Feb. 29.

The college had held two open faculty forums in January and February. Faculty voted 133-37, by secret ballot, in favor of termination of the department. There was one abstention.

But the faculty vote did not quell all opposition to the proposal at both the Senate and Board of Trustees meetings.

Clayton Lowe, associate professor emeritus of photography and cinema, made a plea to the Senate Feb. 29.

“If you vote to terminate (the department) you are destroying the dreams of giants,” Lowe said. Pointing to a videographer in the Senate chamber, he added, “There are no weapons in this nation’s defense that are more powerful, more earth shaking, than that camera.”

Nancy Kiehl, an undergraduate from Cleveland, said that the department “has fallen through the cracks of the planning process. There is no plan for future curriculum.”

According to the trustees’ resolution, remaining faculty and staff of the department, as well as curricula, are being transferred to other visual and performing arts departments. This will “strengthen existing core programs and increase the interdisciplinary relationship to programs in art, art history and theatre,” the resolution adds.

Bob Wagner, former chair and professor emeritus of photography and cinema, told the Senate, “It would be very difficult for a department to maintain itself in a college where that college did not see its work as important.

“I hope that whatever direction the vote goes...(the language of the decision should) certainly reflect the respect for a department that made a great contribution to all areas of study at this University,” he added.

“The signal (should) go out to students and the community at large that this is not simply a discontinuance of a department, but it is the reconstruction of a field.”

LACK of sufficient funding, coupled with a low priority rating for the activities of LERS in a recent faculty-generated planning document for the College of Business, led to the decision to abolish LERS.

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The non-credit continuing education experiences offered by LERS can be accomplished through other University programs.

There are no students in the department. All tenure commitments to faculty in the department will be honored.

The proposal to terminate LERS was challenged in Senate committee by the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors. AAUP representatives last month asked the Council on Academic Affairs to throw out the proposal because they felt business faculty in November approved the termination proposal based on financial rather than educational concerns.

The academic affairs council concluded that proper procedures had been followed and voted unanimously to approve the proposal, Frederick Hutchinson, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, told the Senate Feb. 29.
City offered labor national springboard

By Robert Albrecht
Dispatch Staff Reporter

It might be hard to believe now, but Columbus was once the scene of a good bit of action in this nation’s labor movement.

Gatherings, group decisions and groundswell movements that started or were fostered in Columbus during the course of the city’s history have prompted Warren Van Tine, a history professor at Ohio State University, to put together a chronological history of labor activities in the state capital.

The 39-page sketch was published with the help of an 11-member committee of Columbus-area labor officials and OSU Center for Labor Research. Copies can be obtained, for $1 each, by calling 401-6090.

Van Tine also has set up a lecture series on the topic and how activities in Columbus fit in with the labor movement’s national picture.

"The problem is, we always misrepresent Columbus as a cow town. We also think of it as a bastion of conservatism," Van Tine said.

"It’s not really any of those things, per se. It’s probably more representative of what goes on in America than many other cities are.”

While strikes, contract talks and other labor issues have made little impact in the Columbus area recently, it wasn’t always that way, he said.

The American Federation of Labor was born in a second-floor meeting room of the Druids Hall in Columbus, and Samuel Gompers was elected its first president there in December 1886. A metal marker next to the sidewalk on S. 4th Street just south of E. Town Street notes the event.

Research by Van Tine and the labor committee indicates that the first floor of the Druids Hall held a saloon and restaurant run by Charles Hessenauer “while the second floor served as the regular meeting place of several labor groups, including the Knights of Labor, the German Butchers Association and the Chainmakers Association.”

Just a couple blocks north, a marker on the west wall of the Ohio Theatre notes that in 1890 delegates from the Progressive Union and the Knights of Labor District Trades Assembly met at that location (when Columbus City Hall stood there) and founded the United Mine Workers of America. The mine workers’ national headquarters was at Crestnut and N. High streets until 1938.

The 1890s were a busy time for the labor movement. William D. Mahon led a strike in June 1900 that won a pay increase for workers but was soundly defeated when he attempted a similar tactic in the fall of 1902. That failure drove him out of Columbus, but it also motivated him to become a founding member of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America.

That union was active in the 1910 Columbus streetcar strike, which began April 29 and lasted until Oct. 18 that year. It’s still known by some as the most bitter and violent strike in city history.

In the 1930s, events in Columbus said Van Tine, mirrored the national picture as forces within the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations tried to resolve differences over unions based on crafts vs. those based on the place of employment.

World War II brought the Curtiss-Wright aircraft plant to Columbus. Its thousands of workers unionized, Van Tine said. Then, after the war, General Motors and Westinghouse added thousands more to union rolls and the city’s economy.

Today, though, those numbers have shrunk as the plants cut back or closed.

But Van Tine sees a strong likelihood that “there will be another wave of unionism” in this decade as the basic issues of living standards and health care costs continue to dog wage-earners.

Please see LABOR Page 2D

Lecture series

Warren Van Tine, a history professor at Ohio State University will give these talks on the labor movement in Columbus:

“Strikes, Socialists and Segmentation, 1870-1915” — 7:30 p.m., Thursday at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1059, 22 W. 2nd Ave.

"From the Doldrums to Defense, 1914 to 1945" — 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19 at Communications Workers of America Local 4310, 2991 Sullivant Ave.

“A Power in the Community, 1945 to present” — 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10 at United Industrial Workers, 2800 S. High St.