## USC begins defense of state budget request

By JOHN SHARKEY Gamecock Staff Writer

The University will begin the defense of its request for \$65.2-million in state appropriations before the Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

An increase in student enrollment, inflation and expansion of physical-plant operations are the primary reasons for USC's increased request for state funds, campus officials said last week.

The \$65.2-million request, approved Tuesday by the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee for submission to the Commission on Higher Education, is a 3.7 per cent increase over the \$63million request for the current fiscal year.

THE \$65.2-MILLION state-appropriation request will be augmented by \$34.9-million from federal funds, student fees and other revenue sources to provide a total proposed operating budget of \$100.1-million for fiscal year 1976-1977. The current total nine-campus operating budget is \$87.9-million. The current total state appropriation is \$53.9-million, which includes adjustments for enrollment above projections.

The request for state funds for the main campus is about \$55.3-million, about \$159,000 less than was requested for the current fiscal year. The request for state funds for the regional campuses is about \$9.9-million, approximately \$2.3-million more than was requested for the current fiscal year.

Bernard A. Daetwyler, vice president for finance, and Budget Director Robert W. Denton listed some reasons why USC is requesting more state funds than it got for the current year.

"IT ISN'T just an increase in utility rates, but an increase in space that has to be heated and lighted," Denton said in reference to maintenance and operating costs. He explained that beginning next fiscal year the new library and the biology buildings

will be "full-year buildings." Gambrell Hall and the Russell House addition will be completed in the next fiscal year also, adding to USC's cost of maintenance and operation. Operation and maintenance costs are about 20 per cent of the main campus' request.

Daetwyler said that enrollment on the main campus is expected to increase 3 per cent next year. Denton explained that increases in enrollment require new faculty positions to handle the increase. He added that raises for faculty members are also reflected in the budget request.

According to Daetwyler, a 9 per cent inflation rate adds to the need for increased state funding requests

**INCREASED** requests for the regional campuses reflect increased enrollment and expanded programs at USC's eight regional campuses.

"The regional campuses will require a greater appropriation because of a 21 per cent increase in enrollment since 1974 and because three of the campuses--Aiken, Spartanburg and Coastal Carolina--have reached four year status. Four year programs by their very nature require more funds than do two year schools," USC President William H. Patterson said.

Denton said that USC expects the Aiken campus enrollment to increase from 1,066 to about 1,200 next year. He said that the Coastal campus enrollment of 1,328 is expected to increase to about 1,400. USC is estimating that Spartanburg enrollment will increase from 1,438 to about 1,600.

USC is requesting about \$2-million for the Aiken campus, about \$2.3-million for Coastal and about \$2.6-million for the Spartanburg campus. The requests for the latter campuses are increases of about \$1-million each.

The non four year campuses--Allendale, Lancaster, Sumter, Union and Beaufort--are requesting a total of about -2.8-million. The current appropriations for the non-four-year campuses is about \$2.7-million.

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