



# Energy Continued from page 1

laboratories where scientists have ongoing projects, Smith said.

Another way for the university to save money is to leave some employee positions open.

"We're not going to break any contracts, fire people or lay people off. If somebody were to leave, we might hold that position vacant," Smith said.

Although electricity could be a major expense down the road, "the big impact on us overwhelmingly is in the area of natural gas, not electricity, at least this fiscal year,"

Smith said.

Oil prices are presently 50 percent higher than they were before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. If oil prices remain at that rate, there will be an impact on electricity. Although South Carolina Electric & Gas does not burn oil, they do use coal, and the price of coal will go up as more people begin to use it after turning away from high-priced oil.

However, electricity is a regulated utility that has to go through a public service process to raise

rates. Smith said this process generally takes six months.

Tuition for next year should increase by about the cost of inflation, Smith said. Last year, the Consumer Price Index, which indicates how much people pay for things such as gas, food and housing, went up 4.6 percent, and tuition went up 4.58 percent.

"Raising tuition 4.58 percent allowed us to stay more or less even," Smith said. "We would hope to have a moderate tuition increase, certainly no more than

what is justified by inflation." He said the university is hoping for an increase in state appropriations from the higher education formula.

If tuition does go up more than inflation, Smith would like to see the academic program improved. However, with rising utility costs, any extra income might be needed to pay heating and utility bills.

"We're going to try very hard to keep tuition fee increases in the future at or below the rate of inflation," Smith said.

## What USC students think

Kappa Sigma Fraternity sponsored a mock election on Friday in front of the Russell House on Greene Street. The purpose was to generate voter awareness among the students at USC for Tuesday's general elections. More than 200 people participated in the election.

### U.S. Senator

Strom Thurmond (R) 83% Robert Cunningham (D) 15%

### Governor

Carroll Campbell (R) 91% Theo Mitchell (D) 5%

### Lt. Governor

Henry McMaster (R) 43% Nick Theodore (D) 54%

### Secretary of State

Jim Hines (R) 65% John Campbell (D) 28%

### Supt. of Education

Barbara Nielsen (R) 57% Charlie Williams (D) 36%

### State Treasurer

Bill Linder (R) 52% Grady Patterson (D) 40%

### Adjutant General

Tom Hendricks (R) 56% Eston Marchant (D) 33%

### Commissioner Of Agriculture

Les Tindal (R) 65% Tom Trantham (D) 23%

## Loans Continued from page 1

ing Association assumed most of HEAF's troubled loans.

But in mid-October, the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed it is investigating SLMA for possibly fraudulently trying to make itself look financially stronger than it actually is.

"Unfortunately, through all these hearings, we did not hear of even a single major component of the guaranteed student loan program that is working efficiently or effectively," Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), the subcommittee's chairman said.

All parties agree the student aid system's biggest problem is that so

many college loans are not being repaid.

Last year, the government gave \$2.4 billion to banks to cover loans that students failed to repay. Ordinarily, the money would have gone to students to help pay tuition.

Observers, however, disagree about who's to blame for the high default rate.

Some blame unscrupulous trade schools that, to help students pay them, simply secure federal loans for students regardless of the student's ability to repay.

Others have blamed college ac-

crediting agencies, Congress and students themselves.

Many educators blame the Education Department for radically changing its philosophy in 1981 when it switched the college aid program from emphasizing grants, which do not have to be repaid, to student loans.

Even responsible students, the educators argue, would have trouble repaying the kind of debt the department's new policy would pile on them.

"We have relied on loans when we should have relied on grants," said Terrel Bell, who served as sec-

retary of education when the change was made.

"It was a constant struggle" to get funding for the programs, Bell said. "Because of those budgetary pressures, we went to loans. Policy-wise, it was not a good thing to do."

"The bad guys are the ones defaulting," said Chester Finn, a former Education Department appointee who helped shape the new policy at the advent of the Reagan administration.

Blaming the department is "like blaming the New York cops for crime. It's not their fault," he said.

## Enrollment Continued from page 1

east, said Char Davis, director of enrollment management.

Overall, there has been a three-percent decline in South Carolinians between the ages of 18 and 24 years and a 15-percent decline in those between ages 25 and 34. Those between these ages make up a substantial amount of college students, Char Davis said.

The stable numbers are due to an increase in transfer students and USC's above-average retention rates, Terry Davis said.

About 100 more students transferred in the fall of 1990 than in the fall of 1989. The numbers jumped from 776 in 1989 to 884, she said.

Also, the national retention rate

for large public universities (74 percent) falls short of USC, which retained 78.4 percent of the freshmen in 1988.

In 1989, this retention number rose to 79.8 percent, Char Davis said.

USC's University 101 class is one of the main reasons for the above-average retention rates, she said.

"There has been research done ... and there is clear evidence that it (University 101) makes a difference," she said.

But initially attracting students and keeping them are two different things.

"We have been able to maintain our enrollment levels despite tougher admission standards, in-

creasing tuition and the smaller number of traditional college-age students (those right out of high school)," Terry Davis said.

About 15 percent of the applicants this fall were rejected, compared to 6.5 percent before the faculty adopted the more stringent academic standards two years ago, she said.

As a result of the increase in standards, high school students will need 16 courses in areas such as math, English, laboratory science, foreign language and social sciences, Char Davis said.

Before, students were required to take 20 courses, but they were much less specific concerning electives, foreign language and

math, she said.

Last year the university adopted a grade requirement of "C" in each of the courses. USC is the only college in the state that has this requirement, Char Davis said.

In looking at the entire USC system, only two other USC branches, Coastal Carolina (down .5 percent) and USC Sumter (down 5.8 percent), saw a decline in enrollment while enrollment numbers increased for the other branches.

They are USC Aiken (up 12.6 percent), USC Spartanburg (up 2.3 percent), USC Beaufort (up 2.2 percent), USC Lancaster (up 5.7 percent), USC Salkehatchie (up 13.7 percent) and USC Union (up 8.9 percent).

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