More UAF cuts expected to save $4 million

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Chancellor Pat O'Rourke told the University of Alaska-Fairbanks community Thursday that he plans to eliminate 33 more positions because of additional budget cuts and the statewide restructuring of the university.

"I take no pride in presenting these budget reductions," O'Rourke said. "But the program cuts are necessary to ensure that we can continue to provide quality education and research to our students and faculty."

The cuts will affect research, education, and administration. The cuts in research will adjust to 13 percent positions and administrative functions will be slower and less efficient as a result.

In addition, the statewide administration request to cut $3 million from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks 1998 budget will affect 34 million. The UAF administration will take the largest staff reduction, amounting to 13 positions. O'Rourke said administration functions will be slower and less efficient as a result.

In spite of the statewide administration request to cut $3 million from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks 1998 budget, O'Rourke has proposed a cut of $600,000. He said he felt research could not survive with cuts as deep as the state administration had requested.

The cuts in research will affect undergraduate research, contract management, library services, and some field research.

In addition, five positions will be eliminated.

The intercollegiate athletic program will be scrapped and one employee asked O'Rourke why all sports were not eliminated. In addition, the sports community's support. The largest UAF cut is in the maintenance and renovation program, which was almost halted by cuts in the FY 97 budget but which had some of its funding restored in the FY 98 budget.

"I am worried about this one," O'Rourke said. "We have well over $60 million in requests for renovations. It is something we can't live too long without." O'Rourke said in the last two years the UAF budget has been reduced by 15 percent from 1993 to 1995. The $3 million for FY 98 is to be restored in the FY 98 budget.

The savings proposed in the 1998 budget will result in savings of approximately $3 million over the next two years. O'Rourke said in the last two years the UAF budget has been reduced by 15 percent from 1993 to 1995. The $3 million for FY 98 is to be restored in the FY 98 budget.