

Budget

University funding: logical or partisan?

By Rick.Hanton@iowastatedaily.com

Deficit reduction should not force educational cuts

Today many ISU students will be down at the Capitol talking to Iowa legislators about the proposed cuts to the Regent Universities' budgets. Some will be fighting the proposed appropriations cuts with the ISU Ambassadors organization, and others will be supporting the cuts.

My question in all of this is why students would advocate for cuts to university appropriations? If you are an ISU student, you go to school here, many of you are Iowa residents and even of those who are not, many pay Iowa taxes. Why would you possibly want to support the government's work to cut state university appropriations and put more financial burdens on your shoulders again?

I'm not trying not to take a political stance on the issue here, though I, of course, have bias. I simply wonder why Mr. Pals of the ISU Republicans was arguing that it is partisan to do the logical thing, to try to preserve state funding for our university. Does it make any sense to shoot yourself in the foot and advocate raising the cost of attendance at Iowa State?

I know when I first decided to come to Iowa State in my senior year of high school, one of the good things about Iowa State was that it was not super expensive for an out-of-state school - I'm from Minnesota. I had a few scholarships that helped bring down the price and make Iowa State an affordable choice for a student who wasn't sure about his degree aspirations.

That was five years ago. Today, my scholar-

ships are long gone, and next year I estimate that my education will cost me more than \$12,000 not including food and textbooks - for the one semester that I am at Iowa State in 2011-2012. Now to give Iowa State credit, this is still much lower than the cost to attend a private university, but it will definitely take me some time to pay back all of my education once I graduate.

I understand that Iowa, like many other states, is in a budget crunch right now and is spending much more than they will receive in taxes. Services will need to be cut back and belts will need to be tightened. But along with this belt-tightening, can't we look at other methods to balance the budget? Once services are cut back by the state, why not get more money by raising taxes a little? I have worked in Iowa for the last few years, and I really wouldn't mind paying a bit more in taxes on my engineering salary.

It seems like for Republicans, raising taxes is one of the biggest taboos in the book. Why would we increase taxes to pay our debts when we can simply strip government to a shell of its former self, right? Watching a few clips of Republican pundits, you would think that they would simply prefer no government at all. Where would we be then? Iowa State would certainly have never existed without state support and a massive grant of national land many years ago.

So before you go yelling about the partisan ISU Ambassadors and ISU administration, realize that they are only trying to support the affordability of this university and are not trying to push a specific political agenda.



ISU students are heading to the Iowa Capitol to talk to legislators about proposed budget cuts that would affect Iowa's Regent Universities. File photo: Tyler Kingkade/Iowa State Daily

GSB, for instance, has been pressuring the Iowa Legislature to keep Iowa State affordable for years. I know it was a high priority when I worked for the GSB administration three years ago. This issue was not a political Republicans vs. Democrats fight until Mr. Pals made it one.

I also debate his sentiment that Iowa State should simply pass cuts down to students, canceling whole programs, firing non-tenured professors and further degrading the state of the university. If you want to understand how

Iowa State is struggling today, just ask your department chair or maybe your favorite building custodian. With all the cuts that Iowa State has already endured, I'm not sure how much more we can handle before tuition starts to rise exponentially.

In any case, if you are not able to work with the Ambassadors to fight in person for or against the cuts today, consider writing to your local representatives to tell them how you feel about the potential of cuts. It's just one more way you can make your voice heard.

Living

Fear invokes survival instinct, enables us to evolve

By Tyler.Grask@iowastatedaily.com

“What we seek we shall find; what we flee from flees from us.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

What do you fear? Is it something non-existent? Is it a habit? Is it a vicious animal?

There are an incredible number of fears out there. Some are considered crazy, others are universal. I believe everyone fears something, whether they admit it or not. It's human nature.

Being alone, snakes, spiders, clowns; these are all prime examples of common human fears. Is it crazy to fear some things? This calls into question defining what is normal.

Normal, to me, is something the majority of people agree on and makes sense; at least those that think of it making sense. So, when speaking of what is crazy. Crazy fears are what put people in the looney bin.

For example, a 40-year-old man is neurotic over the fact aliens are going to burst into his home and molest him. The four fears I listed to start this paragraph, those would be what I consider normal fears.

Clowns are debatable, but try saying that after you watch the movie "It".

What is normal and abnormal is often to be determined by the individual. Being afraid of something that brings pain and displeasure if not avoided, is normal.

A big reason of how we humans have successfully evolved is because of fear. It drives us, often instinctively, to take the path that produces safety and security.

Whatever your heart-racing stimuli are, they are there for a reason, to keep you alive; either that or drive you crazy.

But to go through life fearing so many things is such a negative, unproductive way to live. While there is much to fear out there in this big orb we call Earth, there is also so much awesome stuff in our everyday lives.

Being attentive more to what brings you happiness, rather than fear and anxiety, is how

life should be lived.

But you must live with a degree of caution, right? I mean, you're not going to cross Lincoln Way without checking for oncoming traffic. You aren't going to beerbong a bottle of Jack Daniels and expect to live to tell the tale.

Well, first of all, your body would immediately reject this. But you get my drift.

Common sense, it's your buddy, use it. Common sense can eliminate paranoid thoughts, give life a sense of organization. Fear has its time and place.

Picture yourself in an airplane. You've never ridden one before. There's a couple men with turbans sitting on either side of you. Shucks, you didn't even get the window seat. So, already you're in an uncomfortable, possibly threatening situation.

Oh no, what's that rattling sound? A rattle snake, on a plane? Not just one, but they're hidden everywhere! In the overheads, the barfbags, the lavatory; this is becoming a nightmare.

All that's missing from this Mona Lisa I've

painted for you is Samuel L. Jackson screaming profanity about snakes on a plane.

You may be asking yourself, where is he going with this? The answer is simple: This is a situation with many realistic fears being laid out there. If you found yourself in this pickle, your fear, adrenaline would propel you to get out of the way of all this crap to a parachute or safe location.

Fears invoke responses that keep you alive. They exist for a reason. You just have to know what to fear and what not to. Fear doesn't mean you have to be scared of something either.

A fear should be a stimuli which grabs your attention. A fear is an awareness that keeps you on this planet.

Fear has enabled us and other species to have successfully evolved into what we are today.

They keep us alert, and can sometimes drive us insane. But you shouldn't let that happen. Live a good, honest life and deal with troubles as they come.

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