Committee Blames Research Costs for Tuition Rises

By Mary Jordan

Public college tuition soared 141 percent during the 1980s, more than twice the general inflation rate, largely because of administrative bloat and a faculty shift from classroom teaching to costly academic research, according to a commission report released Monday.

"Among the 100 public colleges where the tuition went up the most, the mount of teaching time went down and the class size went up," said Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., chairman of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families.

"The costs are hidden behind the 'magical' field of research where professors are freed up from their classes and given more money for travel, research assistants and laboratories, Schroeder said. State legislators have gone along with expanded research because it results in higher prestige for their states' systems of higher education. But this increased emphasis on research not only has sent costs skyrocketing, it also has left students sitting in larger classes and has reduced the time they spend with their professors.

College officials disputed those findings of the report, based on a yearlong study, as simplistic. They said the soaring tuition is the result of many factors, including a 1 percent rise in public four-year college enrollment during the 1980s, increasing government regulation and declining federal aid in students.

"I think this is someone trying to lay out and justify a particular political position," said James Appelheimer, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He said that government regulation has gotten so enmuse that, for instance, colleges have to draw up six different reports on minority hiring in six different ways for six different agencies.

Stacey Leyton, president of the United States Student Association, the nation's largest group representing college students, said the way students see it, tuition is up and services down.

"There is a lot of anger," she said. "In some of the big public colleges, a lot of students don't speak with a professor until junior year because they are sitting in large lectures and all the discussion in the class is with teaching assistants."

Israel Protests U.S. Sale of Warplanes to Saudi Arabia

By Michael Parks

The Israeli government Sunday protested the Bush administration's plans to sell 72 high-performance F-15X warplanes to Saudi Arabia and said that it would insist that the United States honor its long-standing commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge in the Middle East.

Reminding the United States that Saudi Arabia remains formally at war with Israel, the Israeli Cabinet said it would make an issue of the sale, raising the possibility of some sharp questions for President Bush during the presidential campaign.

But the real thrust of the Israeli Cabinet's five-point statement Sunday was what it said the United States was forcing it to do from Washington.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, apparently anticipating the long-discussed F-15 sale, had discussed with the Bush administration what he wanted the United States to do for Israel with Bush last month. According to the Cabinet statement, "a number of courses of action were agreed upon in order to preserve the qualitative edge of the Israeli Defense Forces."

Even as Bush was announcing the sale of the F-15s to the citizens of the McDonnell-Douglas workers who build them in St. Louis, Israeli officials were meeting in Washington with Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney to discuss further U.S. assistance to Israel, according to Israeli officials.

But Israeli press reports thus were regarded by most commentators here as token — a warning to Washington that Jerusalem opposes arms sales to Arab states, that it would mobilize its supporters in Congress and the United States to stop them, but instead would accept "compensation."

With so many apparent, however, the Israeli Cabinet warned that the sale of the F-15 would accelerate the arms race in the Middle East and then declared: "Israel insists that the United States act in accordance with its commitment to maintain the qualitative edge of the Israeli Defense Forces."

Israel does not have the F-15X among its more than 60 F-15 aircraft, but it does have 150 F-16s, and 60 more sophisticated F-16 models are due for delivery later this year.

Israel's supporters in the United States had advised it not to campaign against the F-15 sale, arguing that it was a political necessity for Bush.>>We've moved.<<

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