

State ruling to end coverage of retired YSU employees

YSU can no longer partially cover the cost of insurance policies of retired employees as a result of an opinion by Ohio Attorney General William Brown, President John Coffelt announced Monday.

The ruling will affect 28 retired university employees whose insurance premiums are partially covered by YSU, Coffelt said. The ruling, Coffelt noted, will also necessitate changes in the YSU-OEA Agreement dealing with insurance benefits.

"The simplest translation of the attorney general's ruling is that the University can no longer use university funds to pay the cost of insurance premiums for any type of insurance coverage for former University employees who have retired or have been laid off. Nor can it pay premiums for insurance coverage for dependents of deceased university employees," Coffelt said.

Before the ruling, retired full-

service university employees who had served continuously for 15 years could have one half the cost of Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Major Medical and Group Life Insurance programs paid by the University, the *Faculty Handbook* states. This procedure was initiated when YSU was a private college, Coffelt noted.

The YSU-OEA Agreement, among other things, calls for insurance coverage for one year past the last day of a faculty member's contract year in retrenchment cases. Coffelt said

that an attempt was being made to find funding outside of the University so the retired personnel would not lose their benefits.

Brown's opinion stated, "a state university is without power to pay insurance premiums for individuals or the families of individuals who are no longer employed by such university, whether termination of employment was brought about by retirement, retrenchment or death."