Students required to have 45 hours to be sophomores

A recent faculty decision on class standing requirements may leave many unsuspecting freshmen in the position of still being freshmen next year, and may cause serious problems where the draft and draft deferments are concerned.

The decision, passed as a motion at the Feb. 4 faculty meeting, redefines class standing according to the number of credits earned toward a degree.

Under the new definition, which went into effect immediately, a freshman is any student who has completed 0.44 term hours; a sophomore 45-89 hours; a junior 90-134 hours; and a senior 135 or more hours.

This new definition involves two changes from past University policy. The number of hours required to become a junior is reduced from 93 to 90, and the number of hours required to become a sophomore is raised from 36 to 45.

And it is in the latter of the two changes, where there is a difference of nine term hours, that the problem has developed.

Concerned about freshmen

"It's really the freshmen we're concerned about here," Robert Bowlin, associate dean of students, said, and particularly freshmen men who face the draft if they do not maintain "normal" academic progress toward a de-

Under the old definition, Bowlin explained, a freshman could attain sophomore standing by completing only 36 hours of study, thereby maintaining "norprogress toward a degree while not being overly-pressured during his first year on campus.

In the past there would have been no problem with such a course of action as far as the Selective Service System is concerned. Draft boards, once they have granted a II-S student deferment, receive from the University only a record of the student's class standing and use that record to determine whether or not he is making satisfactory progress.

Under the new definition, however, a freshman who has planned his schedule so as to have under 45 hours completed at the end of this school year, will find himself defined as a freshman once again next year.

And so will his draft board, which Bowlin fears is just likely to reclassify him 1-A and available for military service on the basis of his failure to make "normal" academic progress toward

Bigger study load advised

A freshman with a deferment who expects to keep and renew that deferment, but who does not at the moment plan to complete at least 45 term hours this year, should consider an increased study load next term or enrollment in summer school, Bowlin advised.

University Registrar Donald Rhoades said that he is aware of the potential problem that the change in hour requirements creates.

He said that the Registrar's Office has ordered "stickers" that will be added to forms sent to draft boards beginning as soon

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"We think that the stickers will be 90 per cent effective in taking care of any problems," Rhoades said, adding that he "has no rea-son to believe" that the boards will not be "reasonable" and "cooperative"in the matter.

If any problems involving reclassification or failure to grant deferments develop as a result of the change, Rhoades said, his office "would be responsible for writing to draft boards to further clarify the matter."

DMIC disagrees

Dave Walruth, director of the University's Draft and Military Information Center (DMIC), dis-agrees adamently with both the change in hours and the claims that the Selective Service System will be "cooperative" in the mat-

"I definitely feel that the decision to institute the change as of the day it passed the faculty was like changing horses in mid-stream," Walruth said.

"I think that local boards are simply going to reclassify" the freshmen Walruth said, "I don't see that any board is going to accept this type of change as valid."

Walruth said the DMIC feels that supporters of the proposal in the faculty were "shortsighted" in not seeing the very serious problems that they have created

as possible informing the boards for male freshmen at the Uni-

In light of this, Walruth said that the DMIC is working with several faculty members on a proposal to be submitted to the faculty that would amend the original proposal so that the change in hours would not apply to individuals presently enrolled at the University.

This, in effect, would put the change off until the beginning of the next school year in September, he explained.

The proposal would thus eliminate the problem created by passing the change in hours in the middle of the year, and allow the change to take place without causing "unfair jeopardy" for any party concerned.

Administrative steps

If this proposal fails to gain the approval of the faculty, Walruth added, the DMIC will take other administrative steps at its disposal to have the change post-

Contacted Thursday, Eugene Selective Service Board 13 indicated that it had not developed any policy to deal with the

According to a board secretary, any problems that develop as a result of the matter, including re-classification and failure to grant deferments, would have to be brought before the board as an appeal and ruled on "at the board's discretion."

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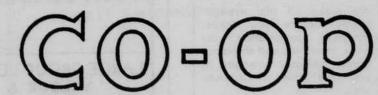
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