

Directors face AOP student criticism

By PATTY FARRELL
Of the Emerald

Bob Campillo and Chris Munoz, directors of admissions and financial aids for the Academic Opportunities Program (AOP), came under heavy fire from AOP students at a public hearing in the EMU Tuesday night.

The hearing was sponsored by the Educational Opportunities Committee (EOC) to gain input from AOP students about the effectiveness of the new minority program. The committee will use the testimony given by students to help it critique the program and come up with recommendations for next year.

The students attacked specifics of the program, such as the 12 hour requirement that already disadvantaged students must meet in order to stay in school, and the want for a precise definition of what classifies an AOP student. They also protested the

elimination of the cultural centers, which was part of University Pres. William Boyd's reorganization of the minority program last July.

But most of the students' complaints centered generally on the financial aid and admissions processes AOP students must undergo, and specifically on the people who "intimidate" them in the process — namely Campillo and Munoz.

Besides attacking the two directors personally, students said that Campillo and Munoz had misled them in recruiting and had misinformed them about financial aid both during the recruitment process and after they were admitted to the University.

"Many of the so-called AOP students have been given a lot of sham by the financial aids," said Gail Johnson, a freshman in the program. "Those people are on power trips."

Eric Wright, a sophomore who came to the University last fall, testified that "one can be very eas-

ily intimidated by Munoz. My own impression of Chris Munoz is that he's a mouse trying to be a lion."

"With Campillo, it depends on the mood you catch him in, the time and if he has a meeting to go to," testified Carmen Johnson, an AOP student who works in the

Center for Self-Development.

Freshman Jimmy Polk testified that Munoz misled him by claiming that "all AOP is is a program where you can get extra cash."

Two students did testify in favor of the AOP and Munoz and Campillo. "It's a valuable tool for us to

have AOP," said freshman Tim Armour, "because without it I wouldn't have come to college."

AOP Director of Academic Advising Dan Gaither defended his program, but neither Campillo nor Munoz were present at the hearing.

Discrimination examined

Is the University complying with federal statutes concerning discrimination on the basis of sex?

The University's Title IX Task Force is currently trying to answer that very question. The force, composed of faculty, students and administrators, has been broken down into six sub-committees to evaluate policy that may discriminate on the basis of sex, according to Joanne Carlson, task force chair.

According to Jeanette Florey, ASUO research assistant and task force member, the committee was set up in accordance with the Federal Reduction Amendments to the Education Acts, which require any educational system receiving federal aid to submit a report on their findings concerning their school's compliance with Title IX. The findings are to be submitted to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the group has set

June 1 as a target date for submitting their findings to University Pres. William Boyd.

Compliance with Title IX includes evaluating current policies, practices and employment, as well as recommending any remedial action necessary to "make up for any discrimination on the basis of sex," Florey said.

The group's research includes sending questionnaires to the deans and department heads of selected schools and departments. The task force also may have open meetings and public hearings to gain input and give progress reports.

Florey said six sub-committees will deal with different areas of the University, but will all report to the task force and, ultimately, Boyd. Areas covered are admissions, athletics and club sports, counseling and advising, employment, financial aids and housing and facilities.

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