

Federal programs bring heaps of paperwork

*Required forms are rational,
but sometimes suffocating*

By LORI PETERSON
Of the Emerald

The federal government has become as common as coffee in offices across America lately, and the scene on this campus is no different.

University administrators are literally bombarded with paperwork. Federal forms, reports, questionnaires and more forms have to be dealt with daily.

"These are aimed at achieving necessary things," says Paul Olum, vice-president for academic affairs and provost, one of many administrators confronted with federal paperwork.

While some of the required paperwork "strengthens certain parts of the University and weakens others," according to Olum, it is indeed a time consuming and tedious task.

Olum says the various types of reporting required of the University includes budgetary reporting, reporting for research sponsorship, reporting status of veteran students on campus and reporting by the financial aid and admissions offices.

"Some of these are rational and reasonable," says Olum. But he believes it would be easier on many people if the government did not require so many different

forms to be filled out.

Olum says the government's goal "is good, but we drown in the paperwork."

In order to obtain federal funds for research, though, both scientific and financial reports must be submitted to the federal government.

Aaron Novick, dean of the graduate school, says this type of reporting is necessary to carry on extensive research, but many of the forms the department receives from the government are designed for use by industry.

The federal government also requires formation of a Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. This committee is composed of University personnel and persons from the community and is organized to prevent the abuse of human subjects used in experiments. Another watchdog Committee on Biological Safety is also required by the federal government to guard against the conducting of any hazardous experiments. The committee's job is to make sure the proper facilities are used in any hazardous project, but no one has proposed any such hazardous experiments at the University, according to Novick.

Documentation on enrollment

for each quarter and the status of veterans on campus is also required by the federal government. Assistant registrar Chris Munoz says federal compliance surveys require hard data on veterans, as well as a quarterly report on the status of all veterans enrolled for the term.

The Registrar's Office is also

required to keep current on the daily reports of a veteran's status — whether the veteran adds or drops a class — if the government should request individual records.

"We apply for federal monies in October," says Lance Popoff, assistant director of student financial aid. Popoff reports that money for the National Direct Student Loan and College Work Study Program is appropriated by Congress. Once the financial aid department obtains funds from the federal government, a Fiscal Operations Report must be compiled in August of the following year to explain how the money was spent.

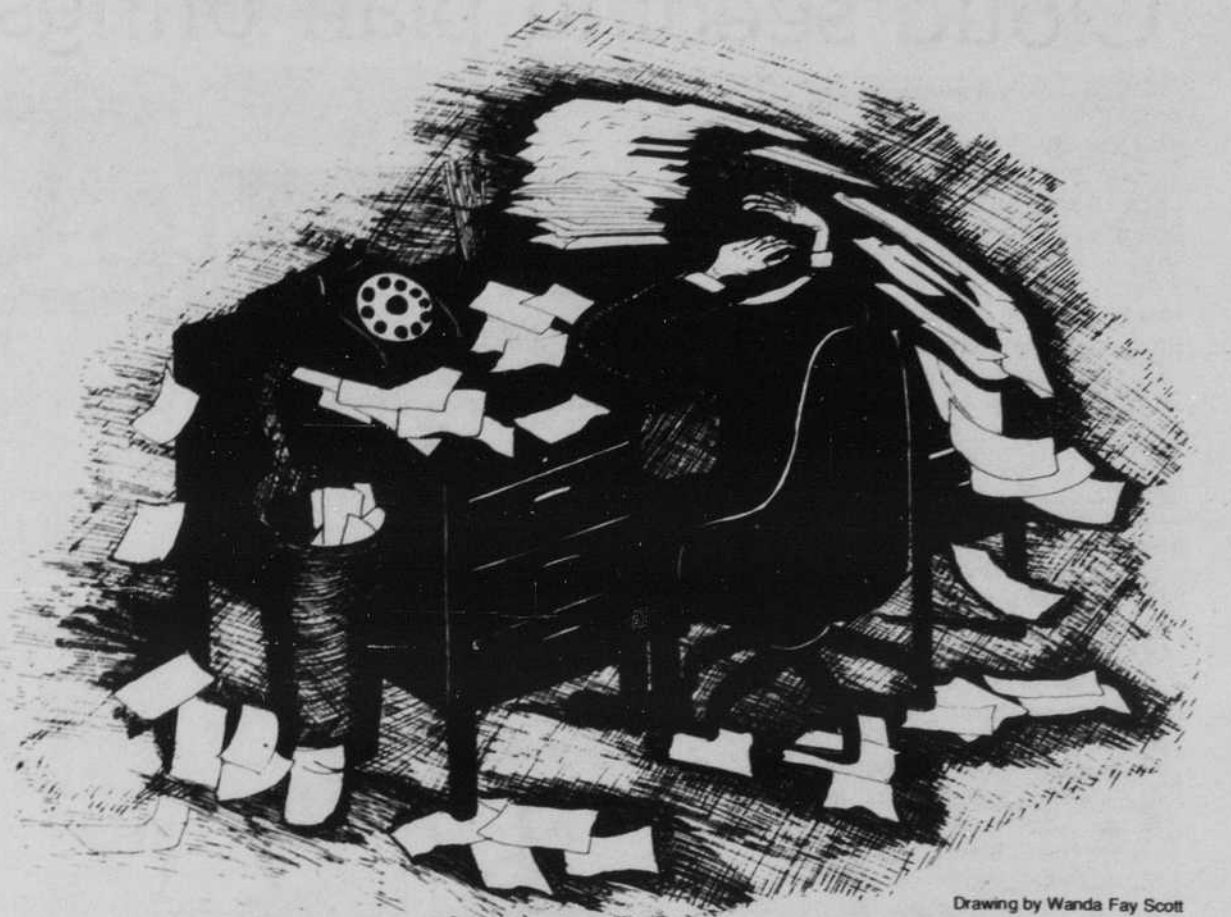
Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG) entail paperwork also. Quarterly reports must be submitted to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) on student eligibility. Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) also require the University to be in close contact with the federal government. Funds for these grants are obtained by applying directly to the federal government, according to Popoff.

Affirmative Action on campus used to make annual reports to both the state and federal government. Director Myra Willard says recent changes mean the report will be submitted once every two years rather than once a year.

The federal government required the office to keep on file a Self Evaluation for Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education and hiring. But Affirmative Action now can cut back on paperwork by submitting federal reports to the state and Willard says that the annual report will be smaller this year.

Hours are spent on these reports, and since the daily problems and work in the office take first priority, Willard does most of the report writing after office hours.

While much of the federal paperwork that passes through the University may simply be part of what Pres. Jimmy Carter terms "a bureaucratic mess," even Willard says "some reports are good. They let you know where you are."



Drawing by Wanda Fay Scott

Hillsdale fights red tape jungle

While federal red tape is flooding universities, one small college in Michigan is fighting its own battle against the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., has never accepted federal funds, according to college president George Roche. But last year HEW claimed that Hillsdale was accepting federal money because 100 of its 1,000 students were receiving veteran benefits or other federal aid.

HEW ruled the college had to comply with Title IX regulations prohibiting discrimination.

Roche says the trustees are resisting the government's intrusion into the private college administration, and adds that HEW's reasoning would bring government control into all private enterprise.

Hillsdale College has no quarrel with the anti-discrimination goals of Title IX, according to Roche, and has always admitted students without regard to race, sex or religion.

"HEW takes a paragraph from the Congressional Record and expands it into a telephone book of strangling rules and regulations," he says.

And Hillsdale's campaign against the government has gone national. The college hopes to secure a \$29 million endowment to finance operating costs. The college has raised \$6 million since November, according to Roche.

Roche does not believe the Carter administration will be any easier on Hillsdale. He said Joseph Califano, the new HEW secretary, is "one of those social engineers." Roche expects him to be "even more aggressive in interventions on the campuses."



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