

University creates position to maintain student services

By LUELLEN FLETCHER
Of the Emerald

In an effort to integrate academic counseling and student affairs, the University has created the new administrative position of Associate Provost for Student Affairs.

Paul Olum, vice-president of academic affairs, explains that the recent resignations of Gerald Bogen, who had been vice-president for student services, and Don Rhoades, who had been dean of student services, have made it necessary for the University to reorganize its administration.

Olum feels that the reorganization could prove beneficial to both students and administrators. "The role and importance of student services will be just the same as in the past, with one addition," states Olum, "namely, now people working in student services are reporting to an academic affairs office, so we are going to try to integrate academic and student affairs more closely."

Realizing that many students fear a decline in the University's enthusiasm for student services because of the announcement that Bogen's position of vice-president for student services will not be refilled, Olum assures that "student affairs will not be under cut." He adds, "everyone will be doing exactly what they did before, but we will try to bring together the 'help' for students with the academic advising end of it."

The associate provost, to be appointed before August 15, will work to coordinate student counseling services and academic advising. He will report to Olum and will have administrative and budgetary responsibility for registration, admissions, financial aid, student services, career planning and placement, high-school relations, the EMU and other activities. He will assume all of Bogen's former responsibilities except housing, security and health services. These three departments will come under the jurisdiction of Ray Hawk, vice-president of administration and finance.

One position, dean of student services, will be eliminated. In the past, items such as admissions, registration, and financial aid, had to come first through Rhoades, as student services dean, before reaching Bogen. The associate provost will take over the bulk of both Bogen's and Rhoades' former work, combining the two positions into one and real-locating excess work to others, such as Hawk.

Dean of students, Bob Bowlin, will remain in charge of counseling, orientation, and direct contact with students. He also reports to Olum. With both the head of student services (the paperwork) and the head of student affairs (the personal aspect of students' needs) reporting directly to the vice-president for academic affairs, integration between the personal and formal is expected. As Olum indicates, academic counseling can be more closely combined with personal counseling.

In addition, many advising programs, such as the Minority-Disadvantaged program, will be moved from the arts and sciences college to the vice-president's office.

Bunny Nosler, a counselor who has worked in the office of student services for 14 years, says, "This type of office is necessary. Students are just people and they need to be helped sometimes." According to Nosler, her job is to make certain a student does not have to run all over campus to learn answers to his questions. "We make the phone calls and make sure there is a person there to see the student," she says.

The Office of Student Services is open every weekday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the 1st floor in Oregon Hall. Students may go there for help with academic concerns, orientation, general counseling and personal crises. Students in the non-matriculant program also may come here.

Nosler says, "We help students with problems when they feel these problems aren't being solved — any problem. We have a real purpose here and a potential for serving a lot more."

Roadsides from the artist's viewpoint

Billboards to frame local art

By ERIC MORTENSON
Of the Emerald

Don't look now, but in September the Black Velvet lady who smiles at you from your friendly neighborhood billboard may give way in favor of a design or portrait done by an Oregon artist.

It's all part of billboard art; the "billboard project," organized by the Visual Arts Resources department of the University's Museum of Art. Four designs by Oregon artists will be chosen, enlarged, replicated by a commercial silkscreen process and placed on 100 billboards around the state for a three-month period beginning in September. An award of \$250 will be given for each design chosen.

But why put art on billboards? Isn't Oregon moving towards removing billboards? What makes art on billboards any more acceptable than advertisements on billboards?

Visual arts director Michael Whitenack has heard these questions before.

Whitenack directs the Outreach Program at the art museum, organizing traveling exhibits, artist's workshops and the like. The billboard project was his idea originally, and he says he was struck by the thought about a year ago. The project was included with others in what Whitenack describes as the regular grant-application process to the National Endowment for the Arts and the Oregon Arts Commission. The two agencies approved grants for the billboard project.

Putting designs on billboards, Whitenack says, will expose works of art to people who do not have the time or interest to visit a museum or gallery. He

adds that it will also reward the artists whose works are chosen. "Can you imagine, from an artist's point of view," he asks, "what it would be like to see your design reproduced at that scale?"

Whitenack notes that motorists should not expect 100 new billboards to pop up along Oregon's freeways. A Portland advertising firm, Ackerley Communications, has worked to secure free billboard space around the state. The billboards which will carry the designs will be located in metropolitan areas, which may mean downtown Sweethome or Baker.

The ideal spot, Whitenack says, would be on a billboard situated in a city parking lot, so that people would have time to get out of their cars and take a good look.

Whitenack admits that people don't usually associate art with what they see on billboards around their communities. Billboards advertisements are aggressive, he says, they try to funnel the thinking of those who view them. Despite some negative feelings toward billboards themselves, Whitenack feels that artwork will not be out of place on them. "Art," he says, "states its own validity."

Artists who wish to enter the competition have until July 22 to do so. Information and entry forms are available at the visual arts resources office in the art museum. Entries will be judged by six artists and art administrators, Whitenack included, and the four winning designs will be announced August 1.

Whitenack is hoping that a large number of artists enter their works. "We don't know how it's going to turn out," he says. "We've never done this before."

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Financial aid

students turn in financial aid applications each year. Of these 70 to 80 per cent "complete the process." Right now, 45 per cent of the student body receives some kind of financial aid.

Divide all those applications and files between four counselors, and you have a situation that sometimes makes for a two to three week wait before a student can get an appointment to see a counselor.

Since 1973 the amount of financial aid available has doubled and the number of students receiving it has increased by sixty per cent. Financial aid has close to \$10 million to distribute this fiscal year.

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"When you're dealing with that kind of figure, modern management techniques must be employed — that means computerization," said Vignoul. "That's not to say it is dehumanizing because the counselors review every file and we have the obligation to let students know where they stand as soon as possible."

The computer no longer determines awards, a job it did for a year before Vignoul took over as director. Now it keeps tabs on student's resources and mails out the award letters. So it's reassuring to know that applications are carefully considered in human hands.

Name change in University files possible without court order

Students who want to change their name on University records may now do so without a court order.

Such is the result of a recent opinion by State Attorney General James Redden issued on June 8 in response to a request made by the Office of Student Advocacy (OSA) of the University.

According to OSA Director Don Chalmers, a student may now get his name changed in the records merely by providing an affidavit to the effect that he or she wishes to be known by another name. The student would then have records under both names and these files would be cross-referenced to each other. Forms for the affidavits are available at the OSA, Room 16-D EMU.

The OSA consists of four divisions providing four different services. Besides coordinating OSA activities, Chalmers serves as an ombudsman to help students handle bureaucratic difficulties with the University or government agencies.

If a student needs legal advice he or she can turn to the Legal Services Division of the OSA. This division consists of two full-time attorneys and four legal assistants ready to help students on an individual basis. The Research and Development Division provides in-depth legal research, primarily for large groups of students. More individualized research is provided by the Legal Research Pool which consists of three law clerks.

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