

State board OKs remodeling funds

PORTLAND — University compliance with laws prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped may be easier in the 1979-81 biennium.

Accessibility for the handicapped was listed as the number two priority on the Capital Construction Budget approved by the Oregon State System of Higher Education Friday. If the budget is approved by the legislature, the University could receive close to \$1.8 million for construction.

Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, which came into effect in June 1977, prohibits discrimination in hiring, enrolling, or providing services to mentally and

physically handicapped persons in federally assisted programs. The law was passed without funding, forcing the University to make cuts in other areas of its budget.

The University has until June 1980 to provide complete program accessibility for the handicapped.

Other funds for Sec. 504 compliance may come from a reserve fund proposal submitted to the board. The proposal calls for funding in three different areas:

- A total of \$200,000 for staff funding for all OSSHE schools. The University's share would be approximately \$30,000.

- A \$160,000 general fund to be

held by the State Board to meet individual institutions compliance needs related to Sec. 504. The money would be available to fund such services as tutors, interpreters and readers.

- A \$40,000 central equipment pool for the purchase of equipment needed to help the handicapped. According to Melinda Grier, Compliance Officer for OSSHE, the equipment would be held centrally by the State Board.

No federal money is available to aid University compliance. However, the Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) budget, now in committee, could allocate as

much as \$500,000 to the University, Grier said.

Also at Friday's meeting, the state board, in its 15-minute-long consideration of capital construction, approved \$1.56 million to continue the University's six-year remodeling program.

In approving its first construction priority, the board gave the University funds to help finish the program, which thus far has included major additions to the School of Music and Gerlinger Hall. Projects that may now be undertaken might include installation of sprinkling systems in Esslinger and Fenton halls.

Also among the first 15 priorities

approved by the board were funds for additions and alterations to the University's School of Architecture and Allied Arts, given ninth priority by the board, and campus-wide utility improvements in steam service, given eleventh priority.

However, Ray Hawk University vice-president for administration and finance, said priority listings were not final, noting that the legislature might elect to move up the utility improvements.

Hawk also said that it was unlikely for the final budget to include funds past the first nine priorities, putting the architecture and utility improvement funds in jeopardy.

oregon daily emerald

An Independent Newspaper

Vol. 80, No. 12

Eugene, Oregon 97403

Tuesday, August 1, 1978



Photo by Greg Gawlowski

With temperatures high and skies cloudless, the Willamette River provides relief as well as fun for these inner-tubers. Last year at this time, the tubes would have dragged bottom

instead of floating — the drought slowed the river to a trickle.

Women athletes edge toward parity

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

Women's intercollegiate athletics will make some gains toward equity with the men's athletics program in the coming year, according to a Title IX progress report submitted to HEW last week by Ray Hawk, vice-president for administration and finance and Title IX compliance officer.

The report says that two coaches and a clerical assistant will be added to the women's athletic program staff, that \$75,000 will be available for tuition scholarships for women athletes next year, up from \$11,000 in 1977-78, and that women athletes will be using enlarged locker facilities and expanded central equipment and supplies facility in the once males-only McArthur Court.

Such improvements are the result of the University's effort to comply with Title IX regulations by the July 21, 1978 federal deadline, the date on which this third and final corrective action plan was released. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities assisted by federal funding.

The University was the target of a complaint filed in 1977 by Robert and Barbara Aiken, alleging discrimination on the basis of sex in the University's intercollegiate athletics program and questioning the University's progress toward Title IX compliance.

Since then, the University has done more to comply with Title IX than many schools in the Northwest, according to Becky Sisley, director of women's athletics in the newly-merged Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. "Most others aren't doing reports," she says, adding that the University administration is more involved with Title IX compliance than administrations at "most other schools our size."

Women's teams are now provided shoes and practice jerseys and can fly to out-of-state meets like the men's teams, whereas before they had to drive, according to Sisley. Grants-in-aid to women athletes started in 1977-78 but are limited to tuition and fees due to AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) guidelines.

The 13-page progress report describes steps already taken since the January re-

port plus other action the University will take to insure compliance with Title IX provisions on athletics. These include the planned development of a softball diamond and discus-hammer and field hockey practice areas on the 18th Avenue and Agate Street fields.

Also planned is the construction of a glass-enclosed display case for women's trophies which will be located in McArthur Court near the existing display cases for men, which the report says will "visually represent the consolidation of athletics into a single administrative structure." Now women's athletic awards are scattered in offices and other obscure areas where the public is not likely to find them.

Sisley says that the display case idea has been over a year in coming, adding that even though there will only be one display case for all women's sports, "It's a start." There are display cases for each men's sport, but Sisley says that is due to the University's "long years of history" in men's athletics.

According to the report, an audit of the coverage of athletic events by physicians will be carried out by the athletic medical

staff next year to determine whether or not there is discrimination in the coverage of men's and women's events. This was proposed after much discussion of the subject caused a statement concerning "high-risk events" to be deleted from the report until further data is reviewed.

Sisley says that the consolidation of men's and women's athletics will give women better support services and will help with budget planning. When women's athletic offices are finally moved into the combined administrative offices in McArthur Court, "the channels for communication will be there," says Sisley. "Just by osmosis things will improve."

Women's athletics are "going in the direction of men's athletics," says Sisley, which means it is more concerned with revenue production. This brings about other concomittant changes, Sisley says, "like the pressure to buy blue-chipper athletes and the pressure on selection and performance." But that's the coaches' responsibility, says veteran softball coach Sisley, adding, "There's evolving greater opportunities for women in sports."