

Minority council starts changes

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

"Everyone from the president on down recognizes the University's problem of attracting and retaining ethnic minority students," says Gary Kim, coordinator of the Council for Minority Education.

A brief glance around campus confirms the problem.

Meeting set to combat child disease

A preliminary meeting is scheduled this week in preparation for a program set for later this term to detect the occurrence of Tay-Sachs disease.

Interested students will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the EMU to find out more about the disease or volunteer to help with the detection program at the Student Health Center Nov. 12. Cost of the test will be \$10.

Tay-Sachs disease is an inherited genetic disorder of young children which causes blindness, paralysis, progressive degeneration of the nervous system, and eventually death by age two to five. There is no known cure or treatment for the disease.

The disease is actually genetic birth defect, according to Steve Bruce, who is helping organize the program. The defect disturbs body metabolism and is inherited from two healthy parents who carry the recessive Tay-Sachs gene.

About one in 300 people in the general population carries the gene but the incidence is 10 times higher for American Jews with Ashkenazi ancestry, those from central Europe or western Russia. When both parents are carriers there is a 25 percent chance of having an affected child with each pregnancy.

The Oregon Tay-Sachs Information Service will be offering a blood test this fall to identify carriers and inform people about the disease. Carriers of the disease can still be assured of having disease-free children if they reproduce with non-carriers or, through prenatal testing, selectively chose healthy children.

BACK



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New direction designed to stop declining enrollment

"Minority enrollment is way down," Kim says. University officials have created numerous minority programs in the past 10 years but the problem is "something we just haven't had a decent shot at," he adds.

The council was established by the faculty in May 1977 after a year of study by a special University committee.

The faculty authorized the council to develop, fund, implement, and evaluate programs which help achieve academic success for Asian, Black, Chicano and Native American students, and to set policy for their

academic programs.

Eight of the council members are faculty, four are students representing each of the concerned ethnic groups and four are community representatives also representing each minority.

In its first year the council helped sponsor limited-size sections of mathematics, an outreach program for minority students in the Career Planning and Placement Office and a symposium on the Bakke case.

The Council also supported an orientation program for new students, recruitment efforts and two

minority law student internships, Kim says.

Kim, a graduate teaching fellow, is excited about the council's future. "People are going to see that something is going on at the University that isn't at OSU and PSU," he says.

Though recruiting efforts are part of the council's goals, tutorial and academic enrichment services are a higher priority. "We have to have something to offer before we can bring them (the students) here," Kim says.

The council is helping sponsor a six-hour core of classes in com-

position, business and math this fall. "These areas are all related," Kim says. "The students will use ethnic essays in their writing course and the math and business classes are smaller than average. We think this will be beneficial."

Study in business and the pre-health sciences will be emphasized. "Minorities are traditionally under-represented in these fields, and they are where the jobs are," Kim notes.

A council-sponsored series on health sciences, careers, and extensive tutorial services is also on tap for the fall.

"We're not interested in a lot of people, just a couple," Kim says. "If we can graduate a couple — if we can graduate just one student — people will take us more seriously."



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