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Boyd urges faculty: You've got to be kind

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

University Pres. William Boyd challenged University faculty Wednesday to attract more students or cut back more programs and staff.

He addressed the faculty at the first University Assembly meeting of this year.

"We shall not have stability, security, or good morale as a University community until we have put this problem to rest, either by bringing our enrollment up to the predicted and budgeted levels, or by deliberately scaling down the staff and programs of the University..." Boyd said.

Boyd described the University dilemma as a combination of underfunding and overcommitment, with "scant resources stretched drum-head tight across multiple commitments."

Boyd said even though programs have been cut, "the intended savings have been absorbed by a combination of insufficient appropriations and this perennial under-enrollment—the slug in our secret garden."

"The choice is ours," Boyd said to the faculty. "Attract more students, or delete more programs and reduce staff accordingly."

Faculty-student ratios cannot be improved by the "simple expediency of dropping students" and even a modest improvement in the rate of student retention "would yield significant gains in financial support" for the University, Boyd said. The number of juniors and seniors who failed to return to school has exceeded University expectations, he added.

"Many are lost to us because they have preventable bad experiences on this campus," finding the environment too un-caring and non-supportive and reporting that they feel "hassled," said Boyd.

Frustrations such as faculty members ignoring office hours and departments giving misinformation can hurt student enrollment as well as individual students, Boyd stated.

Quoting from Kurt Vonnegut's *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*, Boyd gave his prescription for the University's under-enrollment ills.

"There's only one rule that I know of, babies: God damn it, you've got to be kind."

Boyd said that non-traditional students can compensate for the coming decline in the size of the 18-year-old pool on which the University depends.

"Gerbers' jars in the pantry have given way to Geritol in the medicine cabinet," said Boyd. "Our behavior must change too."

Boyd said that recently, "much of our attention has been directed at loosening the linkage between funding and enrollment," rather than emphasizing enrollment.

New methods of funding which lessen the dominance of credit-hour production as the determinant of fund allocation are important for what they foreshadow for the future, says the President.

Boyd said the University has had some relief from the enrollment-driven model of funding through the "1 percent slow slide rule" which limits losses due to enrollment decline. The Emergency Board provided some relief from underfunding last year, which Boyd hopes will come again this fall.

He said the Board of Higher Education invited the University to propose a plan to raise admission requirements, "with some guarantees of budget stability" during the period in which enrollment drops due to the change to higher standards.

"We shall not surrender to a depression mentality," says Boyd, citing the proposed new program in the neurosciences as an example of the University's commitment to strong, quality programs.

In spite of the closure of the librarianship school, the total number of graduate students is expected to be down only slightly from last year Boyd said.

"Ballot measure II does not automatically damn us to a budget," since higher education in Oregon has been within the limits the measure would require for the past decade.

Measure II would allow the University a budget of 115 percent said Boyd. "If we have less, it will be because of priority decisions made in Salem, not because of some inevitability of the ballot measure."



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

University Pres. William Boyd told the faculty Wednesday that cutbacks will be necessary unless enrollment figures rise. Boyd touched upon several problems faced by the University, due to declining enrollment.

Report due soon on handicapped compliance

By KELI OSBORN
and KENT PATTERSON
Of the Emerald

A faculty coordinating council created last summer to review a

task force report on University compliance with federal guidelines for handicapped students has promised to finish its task sometime this month, Vice Provost Robert Albrecht says.

Although given the report in July, the council was unable to seriously consider it until September because of summer conflicts, Albrecht says.

"As it is, council members are only giving themselves a month to review the report and give recommendations — and that's pushing it," he adds.

Because two months have passed since it was submitted to University Pres. William Boyd, speculation arose that the University administration is reluctant to act upon the report.

But the report "really doesn't go to the president until it's been reviewed and re-viewed," Albrecht says. "The president is not going to disapprove or approve the task force report until the coordinating council has finished with it."

Boyd appointed the council in order to give faculty a voice in implementing Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, which

forbids discrimination against those with physical or mental handicaps in any program receiving federal monies.

The guidelines require that the University provide "reasonable accommodation" to assure that otherwise qualified persons are not barred from working, studying or receiving services on campus.

Although much of the focus has been placed on the need to make University buildings accessible to physically handicapped students, Albrecht says curricular changes are also in store.

The coordinating council is reviewing the document for the entire faculty, Albrecht says.

"Because the report talks about curricular and program changes, it is appropriate that faculty members look at the report to see if the faculty, as a whole, can live with it," he says.

The University has a general policy of allowing faculty involve-

ment in University governance. "The faculty develops the curriculum, not the administration. That's why we can't let the task force dictate those changes," Albrecht says.

The task force report submitted to the council was not complete, Albrecht adds. "It was not in its final form, and there is still quite a bit of work to do."

In its report, the task force found that University departments were largely unaware of the provisions of Section 504, particularly in hiring practices.

The University Office of Affirmative Action will sponsor a series of explanatory workshops in the near future to combat this problem, according to Director Myra Willard.

The task force also recommended a plan to make all University buildings fully wheelchair-accessible by 1980. Only 80 of

(Continued on Page 3)

today

Is the "sexual revolution" still raging on the University campus? Find student comments in John Crowley's report on today's collegiate attitudes toward sex on Page 4.

The Incidental Fee Committee's budget is in a state of limbo — since it's been tied up in University administration offices since June, awaiting final approval. Jim Allen takes a look at the problem on Page 3.

Mason Williams, composer of "Classical Gas" has been living quietly in his home town of Oakridge for the past six years, but he's still very much involved in music. In an interview beginning on Page 4 of the Entertainment section, Williams tells how he hopes to communicate the spirit of wilderness through his music.