

Two science programs gain status, support

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

Wary of public reaction to new programs, the State Board of Higher Education supported two University requests but denied a third at its March 27 meeting.

The board granted institute status for the neuroscience and chemical physics programs but rejected a proposed doctoral program in computer and information science.

None of the three programs had asked for additional University funding, and the board of education staff had recommended all for approval.

Graduate school Dean Richard Hersh says the school is pleased the board approved the two applications for institute status but is disappointed at the

computer science program being deferred. In April, the board will reconsider the computer science request, which was defeated by a 4-4 vote.

"I don't think they believed us when we said there was no extra cost," says CIS department head Steve Hedetniemi.

The doctoral program would save money — as much as \$30,000 a year — by providing doctoral students to help teach lower-division courses, Hedetniemi says.

The supply of doctoral students in computer science is inadequate, he says. About 200 doctoral students graduate in the United States each year, but Bell Laboratories alone needs 650 doctorate graduates.

Oregon State University, which has had a doctoral program since 1972, has produced only six doctoral graduates in nine years.

Granting institute status to the neuroscience and chemical physics programs provides the two programs with a nationally recognizable structure, Hersh says. They are the first new institutes at the University since the Inter-University Center of Postgraduate Studies was created in 1975.

There is "something prestigious" about institute status, Hersh says. It connotes a "notion of interdisciplinary research." Areas of interdisciplinary study are not typically considered depart-

ments, he adds.

John Moseley, chair of the Chemical Physics Committee, says the new Chemical Physics Institute will "facilitate research and education in the interdisciplinary field of chemical physics."

"Research in chemical physics touches most areas of our everyday life," Moseley says.

These areas include understanding the atmosphere and lasers, developing and implementing energy sources and understanding the origins of molecules in interstellar space.

Activity in chemical physics already has "more than doubled" in the past year through the existing chemical physics program, Moseley says.

"With any luck, we expect by this time next year that activity will have doubled again."

Basic support for establishing the institute came from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, a Vancouver, Wash. group that gave the chemical physics program a \$400,000 grant last summer.

The institute hopes to raise more than \$1 million a year to support state-of-the-art research projects, graduate and undergraduate students and research personnel, Moseley says.

Nine professors and more than 20 others, including students and research personnel, already are involved in the institute.

Senate to vote on changing grad requisites

The University Senate will scrutinize two motions on graduation requirements today at 3:30 p.m. in room 229 of the law school.

English Prof. Thelma Greenfield, chair of the curriculum committee, will call for another vote on the mathematics requirement for a Bachelor of Science degree.

The Assembly approved the mathematics requirement on Nov. 7, 1979, but the curriculum committee proposes that the requirement be deferred until fall 1983.

The previously approved motion requires that students seeking a B.S. degree complete 36 credit hours in science or social science and demonstrate proficiency in mathematics. The mathematics proficiency requirement can be met by satisfactory completion of a mathematics competency exam or completion of three courses from a list of mathematics and computer and information science courses.

In addition, Greenfield will submit a proposal for changes in group-satisfying courses and clusters and procedures for graduation requirements.

According to Greenfield, the new requirements would become effective in fall 1982. If the University should switch to the semester system, the proposal would be coordinated for semesters.

Senate members will also elect a new secretary. English Prof. John Sherwood has accepted a nomination for the office.

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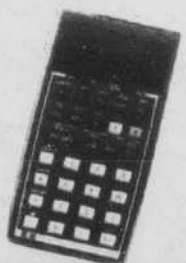
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