

Math requisite deferred

By MARIAN GREEN
Of the Emerald

University Senate members approved a motion Wednesday to defer instituting until 1983 a mathematics proficiency requirement for a bachelor of science degree.

Senate members voted for the deference 19-10 with two abstentions.

In November 1979, the University Assembly approved a motion to require students entering next fall to complete 36 hours of science or social science and demonstrate mathematics proficiency.

According to the 1979 motion, students could meet the mathematics proficiency requirement by satisfactorily completing a competency exam or taking three courses from a list of specified mathematics courses.

Davidson Soper, of the Committee on the Curriculum, said the motion was "designed to insure that graduates with B.S. degrees have at least some knowledge of mathematics and is analagous to the language requirement for a bachelor of arts degree."

Committee chairer Thelma Greenfield, author of the deference motion, said she presented the motion in response to a University administration request.

Richard Hill, provost for academic affairs, said the administration requested the re-vote on the motion in light of the projected budget cuts for the next biennium.

Hill said costs of hiring the additional graduate teaching fellows to teach beginning mathematics and language courses are estimated at \$74,000 by the biennium's second year.

"We'd have to cut positions in other departments by \$74,000 because they aren't in our budget," Hill said.

Noting that the estimates probably are conservative, Hill added, "I really am skeptical about the ability of the math department to handle the increased number of students. You guys would

have classes of 200."

Math Prof. Lewis Ward doubted Hill's figures and said he was uncomfortable about recanting on the previously approved legislation.

George Struble, a computer and information science professor, agreed with Ward.

"I think the decision was a sound one," he said.

Concerned about quality loss of deference, Struble said, "I'm going to start voting against awarding degrees."

But Senate member Dominic La Russo said he couldn't see how approval of the motion would damage the quality of B.S. degrees.

"It may look good on paper, but are we really talking about quality and, if so, what does that say about the years when we didn't have the requirement?"

Architecture student Michael Prothe, also a Student University Affairs Board member, said the requirement would aid architecture students, whom he said often fail the structural and mathematical sections of licensing exams.

The Senate couldn't vote officially on the other motion, which dealt with changes in the course, cluster and procedural requirements for graduation, because of a quorum loss during the course of the 2½-hour meeting.

Wednesday's meeting began with about 24 members — approximately half the total Senate — and ended with 17 members.

According to the Senate roll call sheet, almost one third of the Senate members failed to show up to at least three of the last six Senate meetings.

However, the Senate did take a straw vote of 8-7 against the motion. There were two abstentions.

In other business, Senate members approved the election of English Prof. John Sherwood as Senate secretary.

The University Assembly will meet Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in Room 150 Geology to vote on the motions.

Law school will host resources conference

A conference on Oregon's coastal resources featuring Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., will be held at the University law school April 11.

"The Oregon Coast in the 1980s" will include panel discussions on energy resource development, fisheries management and coastal planning.

The conference will focus on Oregon's coastal resources and the impact of the Reagan Administration's policies on them.

The keynote address will be delivered by Robert Knecht, acting director of the Office of

Coastal Zone Management. Other speakers include Peter Friedman, staff council to the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee, law school dean Derrick Bell and Weaver.

The conference is sponsored by the Ocean Resources Law Program and Land Air Water, an environmental research committee of law students.

An \$8 registration fee will be charged.

For further information, contact Land Air Water at 686-3828 or the Ocean Resources Program at 686-3845.

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