

Tuition rises, fees drop

By DONALD COULTER
Of the Emerald

When the Oregon State Board of Higher Education raised instruction fees 19 percent this summer, a lot of people assumed the entire cost of tuition would be going up by the same amount.

But that's not the case, says University Registrar Wanda Johnson. According to Johnson, instruction fees and tuition are two very different things.

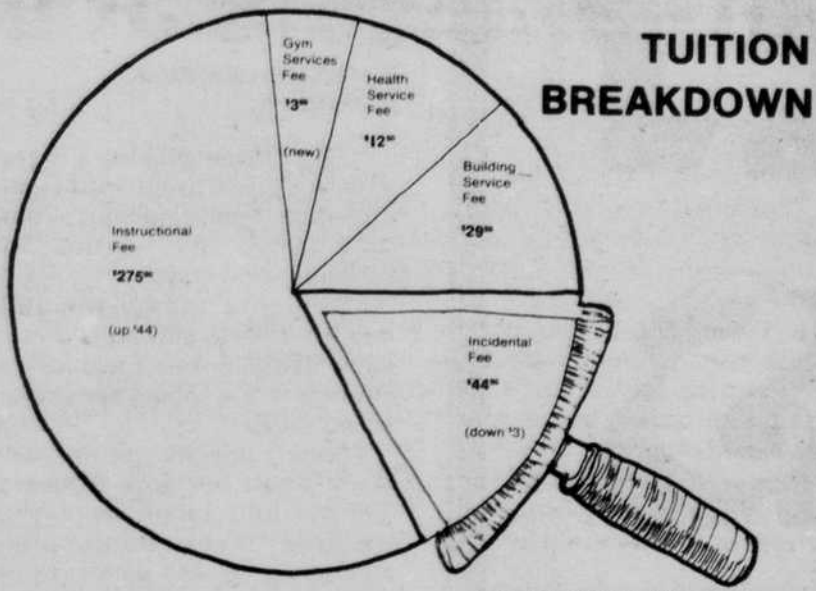
"What's confusing is the total cost," Johnson says. "We define tuition as equaling both instruction fees and mandatory fees. Instruction fees are just part of the package."

Mandatory fees include incidental, building, health service and gym service charges and comprise about 25 percent of the cost of tuition. Unlike instruction fees, the final amount of mandatory fees will not increase this school year.

For a resident undergraduate, the total cost of tuition will be \$364 a term — not including the \$50 general deposit charged with fall tuition. Instruction fees make up \$275 of that figure, with the remaining \$89 going for mandatory fees.

The mandatory fees added each term include a \$44 incidental fee, a \$29.50 health service fee, a \$12.50 building fee and a \$3 gym service fee.

Instruction fees pay for the total operation of the campus — from faculty salaries to utility bills, says budget director Ralph Sunderland. The



Graphic by Russell Whang

19-percent increase equals \$44 per term for resident undergrads and raises the cost of instruction from \$231 to \$275 per term.

Instruction fees go directly to the state higher education board, Sunderland says, and from there the money is allotted to the various state schools and universities.

Instruction fees pay only 30 percent of the University's operating budget, he says. The remaining 70 percent comes from state funds.

The \$44 incidental fee — the only fee to decrease this year — is down six dollars a term from last year, because students will pay half the price of football and basketball tickets, instead of receiving them free as they did last year.

The health service fee — used to support the student

health center — remains at last year's level, partly because of the closure of the infirmary at the end of spring term. Students will continue to receive free or low-cost access to physicians and nurses at the center's out-patient areas.

The building fee, used to meet debt principles and interest payments on bonds for University construction, also remains at last year's level.

The gym service fee — new this year — was set by the state board to salvage operation of gym facilities, which otherwise would have been forced to close due to budget cuts.

The fee will pay for supervision and equipment upkeep, says physical education dean Celeste Ulrich.

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