

Grant money allocated to bolster local economy

In response to the sagging local economy, funds from Eugene's Community Development Block Grant Program previously used for neighborhood-based projects will now be earmarked for economic development.

The city council unanimously approved the program's three-year plan, a guide for funding allocations through 1985.

In the 1981-82 fiscal year, the program devoted approximately a quarter of its \$1.3 million budget to individual, neighborhood-based projects such as park developments, building improvements and housing-related activities. Now the housing and community conservation department, which coordinates the block program, has decided to use that portion of the grant for something else — economic development, says Jan Bohman, a community development assistant for Eugene.

Although federal Housing and Urban Development allocations haven't been announced yet, Bohman says the city expects a total budget of \$1 million for the grant program. Because the size of the grant is based on alloca-

tion projections, she says, the funds going to specific programs are given in terms of percentages rather than actual dollar figures.

Other allocations within the block grant program remained "pretty much the same" as in the past, she says.

Neighborhood Improvement Programs, which set aside large sums of money for comprehensive improvements within a neighborhood, will receive about the same percentages of the grant. Two neighborhoods, the West University Neighborhood and the Jefferson Far West Neighborhood, will receive grants in 1982-83.

Funding for housing rehabilitation will be about 32 percent of the program's 1982-83 budget, and 40 percent during the two remaining years, she says.

"It's a more focused thing," Bohman says of the new emphasis on economic development. In previous years, groups could receive allocations to fund a park or a senior center, but now, Bohman says, they'll have to show that the projects will bring in new jobs or have other economically positive effects.

Degree guidelines narrowed

New requirements recently adopted by the University concerning "cluster" courses represent an attempt to "reintegrate the University into a university, instead of a multi-university," says Robert Bergdahl, dean of the arts and sciences college.

Starting next school year, the stricter requirements will apply to enrolling freshmen and to

transfer students with less than 30 credit hours.

"Cluster" courses are groups of closely related courses, generally in numerical sequence, intended to give students a more thorough understanding of a particular subject. An example of current group-cluster classes are Intro to Literature courses numbered 101, 102, 103.

The three changes that have been implemented include:

- Requiring that students take a group of closely related courses in order to increase the depth of their education.
- Restricting the group requirement to three courses in one department.
- Restricting the number of arts and sciences courses which fall into the cluster category. This was done to insure that required clusters are introductory and liberal in nature.

"In the 1960s, students had to take all of their group satisfying classes in three course sequences. They had limited choice in planning their studies," says Bergdahl.

However, Bergdahl stressed that students will still have more freedom of choice than they did in the 1960's.

"Under the requirements which have now been approved, the faculty has reintroduced some structure into undergraduate education with the goal of eliminating the smorgasboard approach to learning," Bergdahl said.

"Our goal is to see that all students who graduate from the University have the opportunity to gain an appreciation for how the various disciplines approach the analysis of problems.

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University Update No. 3

To provide members of the University community with official information from the administration, the Office of Public Services will publish in this format statements, answers to current questions, responses to rumors, and facts about the budget crisis as details become available. Students, faculty and staff may address questions to "University Update," c/o Office of Public Services, 111 Susan Campbell Hall.

Students Ask

Q: I've heard people say the quality of education at the UO has been hurt. Have we become a second-class institution?

A: No. Despite a series of budget reductions, the University has been able to maintain quality education for its students by selective program reduction over the past ten years; i.e., Home Economics, School of Librarianship, etc. The University today is recognized nationally and internationally for the quality of its programs.

Q: How much did that University Mace cost? When the University doesn't have bread to put under its butter, why pay that money now?

A: The University Mace was donated to the University of

Oregon by Professor Emeritus C. Max Nixon. It did not cost the University anything.

Faculty Ask

Q: Will the University have a Summer Session this year?

A: Yes. A normal Summer Session is planned.

Q: Is it possible that tenured faculty could be transferred by the State System to other institutions?

A: No. Tenured faculty cannot be arbitrarily assigned from one institution to another. Tenure is granted by individual institutions. It is not awarded by the Oregon Department of Higher Education.

Q: Is there any prospect that the University will change or shorten the terms of its contracts with nontenured faculty?

A: No changes in the terms or duration of contracts with nontenured faculty are contemplated.

Q: What effect will this year's fiscal disasters have on 1982 promotional raises?

A: None. Promotional raises will be provided from institutional salary savings realized from retirements and normal staff turnover.

Q: Will there be any change in the promotion and tenure process?

A: Departments have been instructed not to make promotion and tenure decisions based on budget constraints but solely on merit.

Q: Will nontenured faculty be treated differently from tenured faculty if program reductions occur?

A: No, because any proposed program reductions will occur in whole programmatic units; therefore, reductions would affect everyone in the unit, not just nontenured faculty.