

\$1 million relief for computer science

By Steve Hooks
Of the Emerald

If the legislature can be coaxed

How does the University spell relief? With a million-dollar shot in the arm for the its computer science program, that's how.

The State Board of Higher Education approved a University funding request at its July meeting. If the board can coax the extra bucks from the legislature, "it would be a good thing — outstanding," says Stephen Hedetniemi, outgoing head of the University's computer science department.

"You're talking about maybe another half-a-dozen faculty," he says.

Because of that, "we wouldn't have to be talking about such grim enrollment limits" in future classes, Hedetniemi adds.

Hedetniemi leaves for South Carolina's Clemson University this month. Arthur Farley, associate professor of computer science, will take over as department head.

"I think it's recognized that... you can't be a modern university without a

good computer science program," says Robert Berdahl, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Berdahl prepared the request for additional funds.

"There may be people who might not feel as strongly that (the computer science department) should be high-priority, but nobody has come to me to say that."

In recent years, the computer science department has suffered from overcrowded classes, equipment shortages and an inability to keep faculty because of low salaries.

In light of this situation and the heavy demand for computer courses, extra funds for improvements are necessary, Berdahl says. The board and Chancellor Bud Davis apparently agree.

At the board's July meeting in Ashland, members declared development of the computer science programs at the three state-funded universities as

its highest priority for "program enhancement."

The program enhancements are part of a statewide effort to attract high-technology industry into the state.

Also slated for extra funds is the University's cell biology research program. If the legislature agrees with the board's request, cell biology would get about \$496,000.

The chemistry and biology departments worked together on the request for more money, says Peter von Hippel, chemistry department head.

Von Hippel said cell biology is an "area that has a lot of relationship to technical development." More funds would mean more facilities, more research and more researchers, he says.

"Whether (cell biology) will get funded or not is another matter," he adds.

Hedetniemi says he is "optimistic" that the legislature will be generous. If

lawmakers don't approve the "whole bundle" for the University's high-technology programs, then they'll certainly approve "a fair share," he says.

Other University programs won't be neglected in favor of high-technology programs, Hedetniemi says.

Once the computer science department gets the extra funds to solve its problems, then the University "will be in a much better position" to adjust priorities elsewhere, Hedetniemi explains.

English Department Head George Wickes jokes, "Feeling neglected is nothing new to us." He notes that in light of public demand and the computer science department's problems, favor for high-technology programs is "simply the reality of the situation."

Humanists probably won't protest extra funds for these programs, he says. What they would protest is a neglected library.

Greek group grants awards

The University Interfraternity Council has honored eight fraternity members and three fraternity chapters for outstanding achievement during the 1981-82 school year.

C.J. Balfe, ASUO president and Phi Kappa Psi member, received the Bogen Award for the greatest individual contribution to student government. David Gibson, of Sigma Nu, was presented with the Sorenson Award for the fraternity member who has done the most for his fraternity.

Sigma Chi's 2.817 grade point index during fall and winter terms earned the council's Scholarship trophy. Sigma Chi also received the Intramural Trophy for scoring the most points in intramural sports.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon accumulated the most points for participation in Greek Week activities to win the Greek Week Trophy and Sigma Nu received the Robert Bowlin Community Service Award.

Six students were selected as

members of Archons, the national fraternity honor society. They are John Dulcich and Jeffrey Nudelman of Sigma Chi, George Glass and Mark Warner of Phi Kappa Psi, David Waterfall of Chi Psi and Todd Ruberg of Sigma Phi Epsilon.



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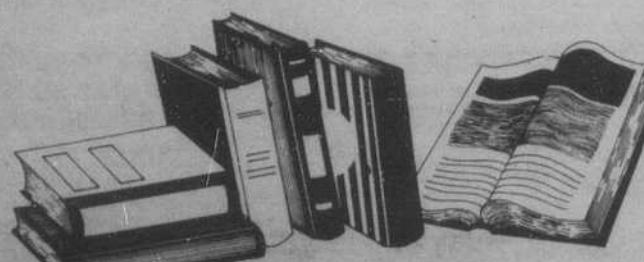
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