

Council sides with library workers

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

State-employed library workers gained support in their push for recognition Monday.

The Interinstitutional Library Council on Monday approved a request that the state Personnel Division consider a library assistant series of job classifications. The ILC includes the director of each library in the State System of Higher Education.

In its request, the ILC listed five issues of concern it wants the Personnel Division to address when writing the guidelines for a library assistant series. The issues rose out of discussion at the ILC meeting in which some library directors pointed out possible disadvantages of such a series.

Library workers at the University and around the state have been lobbying for a new job-classification series that would recognize the technical and specialized skills required for library work.

All non-management, non-academic employees paid by the state of Oregon are classified. Their jobs are ranked in comparison to other state jobs, then placed in a category along with other jobs that have similar rankings.

Library jobs currently are listed in the general clerical classification.

The ILC is pursuing two goals: that a library series provide recognition of library employees' specialized skills, and that it pro-

vide an improved career ladder specifically for library employees.

Other issues of concern center on the worry that a library assistant series might be too exclusive. The ILC asked that the Personnel Department take care to avoid an overly exclusive series.

In the long run, an exclusive series could result in library jobs losing ground in comparison to other clerical ranks, said Melvin George, Oregon State University library director.

Support for raising general clerical classification pay might be more widespread than support for raising library classification pay, he said.

John Evans, director of the library at Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, said an exclusive series would kill his library.

The small labor pool in La Grande would make it difficult for the library to find employees if workers aren't allowed to transfer classifications without losing status, Evans said.

The ILC also recommended that a library series not inhibit flexibility in library directors' recruiting and hiring of workers.

"I don't want to be stuck with having to hire somebody in a library classification over somebody in another classification who is more attractive for the job," said Len Freise, library director at the Oregon Institute of Technology.

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Laurels

Keith Downing and David Meyer, computer and information science doctoral students, have been awarded fellowships by Tektronix, Inc., a Beaverton-based electronics firm. The 12-month fellowships are worth about \$20,000.

Laird Kirkpatrick has been appointed associate dean of the University law school.

Donald Van Houten, associate dean for academic personnel, has been appointed acting dean of the University College of Arts and Sciences. The appointment begins in late August.

Theodore Palmer, professor of mathematics, has been named to replace Van Houten as associate dean for personnel effective Sept. 1.

Richard Hill, University provost and vice president for academic affairs, has been

elected vice president of the American Sociological Association.

Joan Acker, University

sociology professor, has been elected to the American Sociological Association's committee on committees.



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