

Senior-level history credit boost to be considered by State Board

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

The University history department succeeded in amending a curriculum report to include a proposal increasing 400-level history courses from three to four credits at a University Assembly meeting on Monday.

The change will be included in the Report of the Committee on Curriculum to the University of Oregon Faculty and sent to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education for final approval.

The Committee on the Curriculum, which makes yearly specific curriculum recommendations on behalf of the University, previously denied the department's request in the report because of the lack of supporting materials to justify the increase in credit hours.

The Assembly overruled the Committee's decision in a majority vote. All 72, 400-level courses are proposed to be made four-credit courses.

To consider such a programmatic change, the committee requires an analysis of the effects of the proposed increase on major and minor programs, endorsements from authorities issuing credentials, and college-level assurance that the faculty workload and academic program budget problems are not created by the proposed credit increases, all of which were lacking, said Ron Sheriffs, chair of the Committee on the Curriculum.

"The proposal is part of a

much broader package," and is intended to make a history degree more rigorous, said Mavis Mate, chairwoman of the Department of History, who presented the thrust of the amendment proposal.

The change may initially decrease the number of history majors, "yet we are willing to accept the belief that (the history department) will attract more serious and dedicated students," she said.

There is not enough emphasis on writing and critical thinking, Mate said. If approved by the State Board, Mate said the department will demand additional reading and writing as well as a 10- to 15-page paper. The department will expect three hours of work outside the classroom for every hour of instruction, she said.

Granting the history department additional credits for its 400-level courses could encourage other departments to follow the same action, said Richard Stein, associate dean of undergraduate studies, who believes the issue should be debated Universitywide.

Other faculty members proposed offering one-credit courses in addition to the 400-level courses.

The proposal adds 72 hours of credit to the department.

University Provost Richard Hill asked whether the department faculty members will be willing to increase their teaching responsibilities from 18 to 21 credits without compensation. Mate indicated the

faculty was willing.

The history department will need to make detailed justifications for the increase in credit for each course, which have yet to be completed, said University President Paul Olum.

The assembly also defeated a motion to deny a Curriculum Committee recommendation for the creation of a peace studies minor in a 38-9 vote.

Political science department faculty members asked the Assembly to refer the peace studies proposal back to the Curriculum Committee for further revision. The department opposed the program on the basis of a lack of rationale for the selection, division, and balance of courses offered in the program. The program lacks a clear statement of purpose for students, said political science representatives.

The Curriculum Committee realized final details of the program will have to be worked out, trusting that the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences would appoint a committee to work through the details, Sheriffs said.

In other contested course recommendations, the Assembly overrode a math department recommendation to drop Math 156, Concepts of Statistics, and kept a proposal to include Telecommunications and Film courses 241, 242 and 243, Communication, Technology and Society as a social science cluster.

Men who avoid draft registration could lose many federal benefits

The Selective Service System has announced that all men turning 26 years of age in 1987 risk permanently forfeiting their rights to certain benefits including federal student aid, job training and federal employment if they have not registered for the draft.

Failure to register is a felony, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000, up to five years in prison or both.

In addition, some states require registration for state student aid applicants, entrance to a state-supported college or

university, state employment and permission to practice law.

Under present law, men 26 or older are no longer eligible in the event the draft is reinstated. According to a statement released by the SSS, more than 17 million men, aged 18 through 25, have signed up for the draft since registration became a requirement in 1980.

The SSS reports that 97 percent of all men required to register have done so. The remaining three percent who have still not registered "may be unaware of the requirement or

do not understand the importance of the obligation to register," according to the statement.

The SSS stresses that men who have served in the military but failed to register before enlisting or after leaving the armed forces also must register. Also, others who have been convicted of a crime or institutionalized when they were 18 or older must register if released prior to their 26th birthday.

All those who have not registered are urged to do so at any local post office.

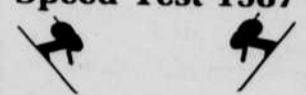
Correction

An article in Wednesday's Oregon Daily Emerald reported that the Office of Mediation is co-sponsored by the ASUO Executive Committee and the University. The article should have read that the office is co-sponsored by the ASUO Executive and the University. A committee will be hired soon to assist in the development of the Office of Mediation. The ASUO will hire the three student representatives to the committee, and the University will hire the two faculty/administration representatives.

The Emerald regrets any confusion this error may have caused.

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