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State Board decides to replace quarters with semester system

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

The University will change its academic calendar to an early semester schedule beginning in the fall of 1990.

All public, four-year colleges and universities in Oregon, except the Oregon Health Sciences University, also will change to the semester system in 1990, the State Board of Higher Education decided Friday.

The State Board voted 7-3, with one abstention, in favor of the switch to semesters after hearing nearly four hours of comment and discussion at its meeting in Corvallis.

The State Board's executive staff recommended the switch and gave a presentation outlining the pros and cons of semesters versus quarters.

Testimony from representatives of each State System institution showed that opinions were divided among faculty, students and administrators throughout the system.

Ernest Ettlich, the interim president at Southern Oregon State College, told the State Board that faculty and students at SOSOC do not support the change to an early semester calendar.

But Ettlich said "the value of the calendar change is not so much in the mechanics of the calendar. . . the importance I think is in the curricular reform." He urged the board not to hurry the changeover and to allow time for administrators to design curricula that would use the advantages of a semester system.

University President Paul Olum told the State Board that faculty here support the semester system by a 2-1 margin.

"All other reasons (for supporting the semester system) should be forgotten compared with the academic one," Olum said. "I've taught under both systems, and I feel strongly that at the college and university level we ought to be able to teach academic subjects at some reasonable level of intellectual depth, and there is simply no time to do it in the time we have in the quarter system."

"The end of the term is partly taken up with preparing for final examinations, and there is not so much you can do then but review. More importantly, the beginning of the term is taken up with the fact that you have distribution of students who often come from different backgrounds or different prerequisites, and it takes time to get everybody together and get into the subject," Olum said. "The opportunity to get a whole class together and to teach at some sufficient level of deep understanding is just that much better in the semester system."

State Board member and Eugene businessman John Alltucker said he was unalterably opposed to a semester calendar. In a strong statement of opposition, Alltucker said he was concerned that colleges and universities may become "training schools" that force students to specialize in a particular, narrow field of study. "Do we want to turn out graduates who know

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Marching for peace

More than 800 people turned out for a peace march from South Eugene High School to the Hult Center on Friday in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The event was part of a weeklong celebration highlighted by today's national remembrance of the slain civil rights leader. King would have been 58 last Thursday.

Photo by John Giustina
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Bill would create new loan program

The state Treasury Department introduced a bill calling for the creation of a new educational loan program Friday in the state Senate.

Senate Bill 157 calls for the State Scholarship Commission to establish an "alternative educational loan program whereby students, or parents of those students, in eligible post-secondary educational institutions may obtain loans to meet college expenses."

State Scholarship Commission Director Jeff Lee said students at all institutions in the state, both public and private, would be eligible for the new loan program. In addition, the loan would be available to eligible Oregon residents attending out-of-state schools.

The State Scholarship Commission would guarantee the loans, using funds gained from revenue bonds issued in consultation with state Treasurer Bill Rutherford.

"The state treasurer has been working on this for awhile," Lee said. "It's part of a larger package. He's talking about not only loans to students but loans for

economic development as well."

The loan program, called Financing Oregon College and University Students, would provide students with loans "not to exceed the cost of education, minus other financial aid received, or \$10,000, whichever is less," during a single academic year.

Students would be limited to borrowing \$40,000 total.

Repayment of the FOCUS loans would be similar to repayment of Parental Loans for Undergraduate Students.

The interest rate on the FOCUS loans would be set periodically by the state Scholarship Commission, and interest would accrue on the loans from the date of disbursement. Repayment of principle and interest on FOCUS loans made to parents would begin within 60 days of disbursement, but FOCUS loans made to students would require repayment of interest to begin within 60 days and repayment of principle to begin within four years or 60 days after the student leaves school.

Budget leaves University \$2.3 million short

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's recommended budget for higher education could leave the University looking for ways to make up \$2.3 million in its operating budget next year unless some relief is gained from the Legislature, said Bill Lemman, executive vice chancellor of higher education.

Lemman and Chancellor William Davis presented an analysis of the governor's recommended budget at the monthly State Board of Higher Education meeting Friday in Corvallis.

Extreme enrollment increases at the University and Western Oregon State

College this fall prompted the State Board to request more money from the state General Fund for "corridor of enrollment adjustments" at the two schools.

But these adjustments were not included in the governor's budget that was released last week, and according to Ralph Sunderland, director of the University Office of Management and Budget, "We'll be pretty hard up against the wall if we don't get some relief."

The University will be forced to dig into savings and deplete inventories of equipment and instruction materials next year if it doesn't get more money from the Legislature, Sunderland said.

The University will need about \$3.9 million added to its operating budget next year to hire additional instructors and meet other needs required by the increased number of students, Sunderland said.

Of that \$3.9 million, about \$1.7 million will be covered with the tuition paid by the extra students. However, \$2.3 million will be required from the state General Fund if the state is to continue funding higher education at its current percentage level, Sunderland said. WOSC will need about \$300,000 more from the General Fund to maintain its current level.

The corridor of enrollment funding

policy was adopted by the State Board in 1975, and is designed to eliminate budget adjustments for minor changes in enrollment. The policy basically provides funding for a range in which a school's enrollment can fluctuate without a change in that school's budget allocation from the General Fund.

The range of enrollment is arrived at by averaging a school's enrollment during the past three years and allowing for a fluctuation of plus or minus 500 students.

Currently, the state General Fund provides the University with enough money

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