

EMU main desk will reopen in fall with expanded wares

By the time students return to the University in the fall, the new and expanded EMU Main Desk will be completed.

The desk was expanded in order to make the area more attractive and to offer the students a wider variety of items to purchase, said Susan Racette, EMU assistant director and business manager.

A main desk subcommittee, consisting of students and EMU staff, was formed last spring in order to look into possible improvements for the desk, she added.

At the beginning of spring term the subcommittee sent out 500 surveys to students, and they received 250 answers. The surveys asked students what services they would like to see included at the main desk. The returned surveys are currently being considered by the subcommittee, and the results of the survey will be made available next week.

One suggestion for the space is to sell T-shirts and sweat shirts from the University bookstore. "A lot of high school students and visitors go through the building but not through the bookstore," Racette said.

Other ideas are to expand on the plant selection, have a larger gift selection and increase the number of greeting cards available. A corner of the area may be leased for video rentals, Racette said.

The desk will also continue with its current services, such as selling candy, popcorn and tickets, she added. The main desk also accepts payments for Pacific Northwest Bell bills and Eugene Water and Electric Board bills.

According to Karen Gaffney, ASUO vice president and a former member of the EMU Board, "there has been a problem with the main desk for a long time and people have viewed it as just a candy store."

However, the desk does offer a variety of services for students, she added.

For many years the desk was running a deficit. "There was no way, with the given space, to be able to market things and turn a profit," she said.

So, in 1984 various architects and user groups were contacted in order to look at the area and to decide the best way to expand the area, Gaffney said.

A grand opening, featuring samples of products offered by various merchants will occur at the beginning of fall term, Racette said.

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There were a few aborted efforts to implement a standardized pay schedule at the University, but they didn't work because "we never had the money for step-increases," Olum said.

Sometimes the University increases individuals salaries if the individual has received an offer from another institution where average salaries are higher, he said.

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Photo by Maria Corvallis

With the new fall term will come the completion of the revitalized EMU Main Desk, currently under construction.

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Trow is the chairman of the Education Committee.

Holbo harshly criticized the uniform numbering idea, but he reluctantly accepts the current bill.

"It's not going to be simple, but it's probably worth trying to reach the lowest common denominator set of classes acceptable by the State System to represent the equivalent of our lower-division general-education requirements," he said.

Holbo said general-education

requirements differ from school to school within the State System, which might make the transfer agreements difficult.

The University has signed two-party transfer agreements with five community colleges, more than any other State System school.

"If whatever is agreed upon (by the State System and OCCS) is complete enough, we wouldn't have to negotiate separate transfer agreements. But I don't think that's going to happen," Holbo said.

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million from the surplus has been proposed to complete a federal requirement that all campuses be accessible to the handicapped.

Goldschmidt had originally wanted to eliminate the state spending limit but now has said he will push for specific exceptions to the cap.

Eachus supports the move, noting a couple of advantages to Goldschmidt's plan.

First, he said, doing the projects now will save the state

money because construction costs will almost certainly rise in the future; second, the state may not have the surplus funds in the coming years to do the projects.

"These are projects that have been on line for a long time and are high priority," he said. They keep getting skipped over, however, because the state gets federal funds for other projects and uses all its money for the necessary matching funds, he said.

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