

Baker was instrumental in coordinating this year's accreditation team.

The evaluation team's report devoted considerable space to flaws found in the University library and criticized it "for having far too few staff members," and far too little space.

Baker noted the 1985-86 Legislature had authorized money to "go ahead with preliminary planning" for constructing a new library, such as submission of schematic designs and hiring architects.

**'I understand faculty salaries will be a number one priority of the State System's in the '89-'91 biennium, and the governor has expressed interest in this issue as well.'**  
— Alison Baker

According to Baker, the Legislature recommended the next governing body put library construction at the University on first priority. Despite the team's criticism, Baker remained optimistic the library will be built when the 1989-91 Legislature convenes.

"If the economy of Oregon can bear capital expenditures when the next Legislature meets, then the library will likely be funded," Baker said, adding she believes the University will have a new library within four to six years.

The report further criticized the library as being understaffed. Yet despite her optimism a new library will be constructed, Baker doubted whether more staff would be necessary.

"It's quite possible that a larger and more efficient building could be run with the same number of staff we currently have. They are already doing computer automation at the current library, and theoretically those things are supposed to save time and effort," she said.

Another point of contention found in the report dealt with faculty salaries — an issue Olum echoed in an address to the University Assembly early this month. This year's review

deemed salaries far too low, stating "the faculty is seriously underpaid."

The team warned the State of Oregon "not to presume too long on the ability of the pleasant life-style in the Eugene area to bring and keep faculty of this stature at the University of Oregon."

"The lack of funding not only puts faculty quality at risk, it directly hampers teaching because the institution cannot purchase, maintain and service the necessary instrumentation for undergraduate education,"

the report added.

The status of faculty salaries remains similar to the plight of funding for the new library — the University's hands are tied on this issue until the next Legislature reconvenes.

"I understand faculty salaries will be a number one priority of the State System's in the '89-'91 biennium, and the governor has expressed interest in this issue as well," Baker stated.

Throughout the report, the evaluation team condemned what it viewed as an excessive use of GTFs for instructional use, particularly in the Humanities, Mathematics and College of Human Development departments.

Baker deemed this as a Catch-22 situation, however. "To some extent it's a good idea to have GTFs teaching courses, because most of those graduate students are going to go on to become professors themselves, and to have part of their education being the teaching of college-level work is important for them."

Yet in the same breath, Baker said, "But the thing is it is important at the University... that students do have the opportunity to see regular faculty in their classes in their first and second years at the University."

Baker said the University was in a constant "balancing act" of trying to get the best possible instruction for students given the financial resources it has. She also added using GTFs and non-faculty instructors was more economical than using regular faculty.

Nonetheless, she did see a need to hire more full-time faculty and believed GTFs were over-used in certain areas, particularly in the first-year foreign language departments.

The evaluation team also faulted the University for lacking handicap-accessible buildings. This point will be moot within the next few years, however, for the State Board of Higher Education recently approved funds for making many campus buildings accessible to the mobility-impaired.

The University similarly fell from favor in the eyes of the evaluation team for lacking a computerized registration process and for not implementing a mandatory faculty advising policy.

Baker explained the University continues using an archaic, arena-style registration process because the State Board is considering adopting an integrated, state-wide computerized registration system. Until that decision is handed down, the University remains unable to implement its own automated system, Baker said.

"Once that question whether we'll have a centralized facility or whether institutions can go off on their own is solved, I'm sure there'll be some activity on the registration scene," Baker explained.

However, the University is not so accommodating regarding faculty advising.

"The idea is that if students want advising, they'll get advising... so we have put some burden on students to seek advice when they want it," Baker said.

"Some people have criticized the institution for doing that. Many universities have required advising sessions, so that you can't even get into registration unless you've seen an adviser and gotten a signature — this university has

decided not to do that," Baker added.

Despite room for improvement, the evaluation team did award the University some high marks.

The committee acknowledged the "hospitality" and the "generous contribution of time on the part of the University" faculty staff, students and administration in accommodating the evaluation team.

In addition, the team was "universally impressed with the vigorous intellectual climate" of the University.

On a more substantive level, the review squad was impressed by the way the University adapted to financial hardships the campus faced during the

early 1980s.

It equally was impressed with Student Services, and found them "to be well-administered, exhibited excellent morale and demonstrated highly effective communications."

Kudos also went to administration efforts to recruit minority and disadvantaged students.

When asked what grade the University deserved in light of the accreditation report, Baker gave the campus a "B-plus."

"There are some things we don't do as well as other institutions, but there are many things we do better than most institutions — we're an awfully good school," Baker said.

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