

University

Problems cause textbook delay

By Polly Campbell
Emerald Reporter

Buying books can be an ordeal for students and bookstore staff.

Due to this term's record enrollment, plus problems with publishers and late orders, many of the books required are not in stock and are unavailable to students.

"The added enrollment has made it more hectic because we don't know where the enrollment is going until after the first day of classes," said Chris Standish, coursebook manager at the bookstore.

Standish said that although the bookstore staff and the instructors can estimate class size, things change as students shift schedules. By the second day of registration Standish said students are desperately trying to get whatever classes

are available, and they often sign up for small obscure classes just to receive their credits.

"Instructors try to accommodate the students and let them into classes. As a result a small Russian literature course may end up with 50 people needing a book instead of the estimated 20 students — that happened this term," Standish said.

Publishers have also contributed greatly to the bookstore's inability to get books in stock, Standish said.

One of the largest publishers of literature books, New American Library, merged with Viking Publishing in August. The merger has caused major shipping delays, making the travel time for books three times as long, Standish said.

Sherri Sacconaghi is one of the students who has been waiting for the shipment of sociology books. Like many stu-

dents Sacconaghi has gone daily to the bookstore to see if the book, scheduled to arrive on Monday, has come in.

"The professor of my class has adjusted to the fact that we don't have a book, but it has been difficult," Sacconaghi said.

Occasionally instructors won't get book request forms in on time, and this creates problems for students as well as other instructors, Standish said.

"I think that it would help everybody involved if somehow we could get some registration information earlier," Standish said. "If we knew expected class size a month before then we could get the books before classes start."



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