

Officials to limit freshman/transfer admissions

By ChrisBouneff
Emerald Reporter

In an effort to control the record enrollment at the University, admissions officials will begin a more selective and competitive process for selecting the next freshman class.

Next fall, 600 fewer freshman will be admitted in order to stabilize enrollment to fit budget constraints, said Paul Holbo, University vice-provost of academic affairs and history professor.

"Six hundred fewer freshman means only 100 fewer enrollees," Holbo said. "Limiting freshman doesn't have much effect on University enrollment overall, but it does stabilize population."

Besides restricting the number of incoming freshman, Holbo and University Admissions Director James Buch are working with community colleges around the state to toughen standard for transfer students, Holbo said.

"We're contacting the community colleges on what we will expect from transfer students," Holbo said.

Minimum standard for transfer students included 12 hours at a higher education institution and a 2.0 grade point average. According to the proposed admissions requirements, those already holding an associate arts' de-

gree would be considered first, Holbo said.

"We had to finally impose this on transfer students," Holbo stated. "We cannot have an edge for one category of students."

Holbo said the present 2.0 GPA figure required for admission would act as the minimum standard to be considered by the University.

Changes made for freshman enrollment this year will remain the same for the next academic year, said Martha Pitts, associate director of admissions. High school seniors must have a 3.0 GPA to be considered, she said.

At present the University is mulling through all applicants with a 3.4 GPA or higher for admission while reserving other applications for future consideration, Pitts said.

"The only students being admitted now are those with a 3.4 GPA, and the other applications meeting the minimum requirements are being placed in a pool," Pitts said.

An applicant can still be considered for admission without maintaining a 3.0 GPA, she said.

"By having a 2.8 GPA and a combined score of 820 on the SAT, a student is eligible to be considered," Pitts said. "This meets the minimum admissions standards."

It is much easier for a transfer student to enter the University than it is for a high school applicant which is one reason officials are considering tougher standards for transfers.

"We've moved to be more selective and competitive with freshman admission so it only makes sense to look at it for transfers," Pitts said.

Even if the University decided to go ahead with the new standards for transfer students, the plan still needs the approval of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE), Pitts said.

Because the proposal requires OSBHE support, the new plan will probably not be in place for the next academic year, she said.

"When the admissions people first discussed this thing they forgot transfer students," Holbo said. "It wouldn't be fair if they (freshman applicants) were competing with a more rigorous system than transfers."

Holbo said these measures will not have much of an immediate effect on enrollment, and the University still needs to find money to pay for added costs.

Norm Wessels, provost and vice-president for academic affairs, reported at a recent University Senate meeting that enrollment is up 4.5 percent since winter term 1988.

Furthermore, Wessels estimated the University will have to spend an additional \$400,000 on extra courses and instructors to handle the increase in students.

"Even if we restrict next year's freshman class, there will be an enrollment problem," Wessels told senate members.

Pitts said 50 percent of the next freshman class will consist of students with a 3.4 or higher GPA, and 40 percent will come from the pool of applications meeting the minimum requirements.

Students who need special consideration will round out the field of freshman, Pitts said.

Special consideration students consists of those individuals with special talents or circumstances, learning disabilities, minority students and other categories, Pitts said.

"We have to limit the number of students coming in and this is one of the ways to achieve a limit," Pitts said. "We're looking at dealing with enrollment through selective and competitive admissions."

The number of international students has also been curtailed to limit student population, but the cut was so drastic the number of foreign students will probably increase next year, Holbo said.

Asian/Pacific American group grows with new leader

By Polly Campbell
Emerald Reporter

The Asian/Pacific American Student Union is making a comeback, said APASU Director Chris Chan.

Chan said APASU is on the rise after a rough year.

The lack of a director and low membership are factors that have made it difficult for APASU to generate student interest on campus, Chan said.

Now with the directorship of Chan, who was appointed in December, APASU is gaining membership and making a fresh start.

As one of the many student unions on campus, APASU's main purpose is to provide cultural awareness to all students at the University, Chan said.

First established in 1972,

APASU had a large, active membership and participated in a number of activities in conjunction with other student clubs, said APASU Co-director Gary Hoh.

"There is a lot of apathy on campus about Asians participating as a group," Hoh said.

Because there are so many Asian clubs on campus, the groups have become decentralized, Hoh said.

In the future Hoh would like APASU to organize some activities with the other Asian/American groups on campus.

"APASU is a club for people interested in the Asian culture, and anyone is welcome to participate," Chan said.

Unlike some of the other student clubs APASU was not formed to make a political

statement for the Asian people, Chan said.

The club works to offer support to Asians, and promote a general cultural awareness, she said.

APASU sponsors activities such as Heritage Week to educate people about the Asian

culture.

"There is so much richness in our culture — we want to get in touch with that and that is what APASU is for," Chan said.

The APASU office, located in EMU Suite 12, serves as a place to study, to store things or

"just get away," Chan said. If Asian students are having problems with classes or professors, they can go to the office for support and help, she said.

"We're not an organization to go out and hold picket signs, we work to uphold our tradition and support other Asian/Americans," Chan said.

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By GARY LARSON



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