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Crucial Interaction

And if international students stop applying or if the enrollment keeps dropping, the University will lose its important multi-cultural interaction, said Singapore Student Association director Richard Ong.

"Having more international students on campus in general will allow Americans the opportunity to learn about how other students from other countries think and view things," Ong said.

This exchange of ideas is crucial as many countries try to solve common worldwide problems, Ong said.

"Enrollment cuts don't just hurt international students," he said. "Ultimately when you cut down enrollment you limit Americans on their international viewpoint and their education."

Moreover, graduate business schools are "screaming" for

students with international experiences, Runde said, "and business schools are just a reflection of the actual business world."

International students add to the college experience as well, said Foreign Student Organization director Caroline Steele. "It's a growing experience in itself for all students involved," she said.

And the University's cultural diversity may suffer because the lower number of international students could make it difficult for student groups to present their traditional cultural nights which usually require 400 to 500 students, Steele said.

"The international nights have become so popular that Oregon State University is going to be joining in," she said. "But if they lost that strength and popularity due to lack of students from the Philippines,

for example, we wouldn't be able to do their program."

Mills agreed the cultural nights could be affected adversely due to less students this year, and he said Oregon desperately needs the cultural diversity brought by international students.

"Oregon as a state is 96 percent Caucasian so I think it's even more important for us as a state to have international enrollment," Mills said.

Short Term Problem

However, Mills said he believes the current drop in international enrollment is only a short-term problem.

"The University administration does say they would like to make the international enrollment 10 percent of the student body," Mills said. "In the long term we should be able to do that, even though in the short term we did lose a couple hundred students."

Admissions associate director Martha Pitts said the concern over the drop in international students is a "legitimate worry," but she assured the University's plan, voiced by Pres. Myles Brand, is to have approximately 1,700 international students enrolled by fall 1992.

"What we're working toward is a steady enrollment," she said. "Part of the reason the numbers are down for this fall is because there was a large chunk that graduated last spring."

Kathy Bowman, associate vice president for research and international affairs, said administrators and admissions officials have held enrollment management meetings to ensure the depletion of international students will not be a continuing trend.

Although Runde applauds Brand's goal, he said the goal seems inconsistent with the present and upcoming enrollment cuts.

"You have a saying in America, 'you want your cake and eat it, too'," he said. "Well, you say you want international students because they add to the University and you want your in-state students because they're your bread and butter, but you have to make cuts."

"It doesn't quite make sense to me how everything can work out," Runde added.

Students

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Al-Meliky plans to return home to Saudi Arabia after finishing his degree at the University. His family and friends live there and although he said he misses his country, his experiences helped him to grow.

"I've seen many changes. I have grown and developed within myself and learned a lot about who I am through my experience here," Al-Meliky said.

Jialing Zhang, a computer science student from Guangzhou, China, admits it is sometimes difficult to be so far away from home.

"I left many friends that I think about and miss, but most of the time I am so busy here that I don't have too much time to think about that," Jialing said.

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