

# Tougher residency rules sought

By Peter Cogswell  
Emerald Reporter

In response to new enrollment needs the State Board of Higher Education is proposing a change in residency rules that will make it more difficult for out-of-state students to gain residency status in Oregon.

"In light of new enrollment policies we undertook a review of policies," said Gary Christensen, assistant vice-chancellor for student services for the State Board of Higher Education. "As a result we decided to reorganize the rules."

The State Board may be making changes for more than just enrollment policies, though, said Lynn Pinckney of Oregon Student Lobby.

"They are interested in additional revenue from people paying out of state fees," Pinckney said. "They want to be more in line with what other states do."

"The ability to get residence quickly in Oregon has been a bargain," she added.

Under the current system students are eligible for residency status if they have either lived in the state for 12 consecutive months while attending a university, or lived in the state for six consecutive months without attending a university.

The current system also provides for a committee that can award residence status on the basis of meritorious achievement.

Under the proposed system, the living in the state for six months without attending a university and the committee that can award residence on the basis of scholastic achievement will be done away with.

Getting rid of the committee would affect the university in many ways, especially in terms of diversity, Pinckney said.

"We are not that concerned with the six month rule as most students get residence by staying in the state for 12 months," she said. "We are concerned with getting rid of the ability for students to gain residency through meritorious achievement."

There are many students at the University that would not be able to be attending school had they not been granted resident status by this committee, Pinckney said.

Christensen does not feel getting rid of the committee will adversely affect diversity on the University campus.

"We think that there is ample opportunity for both residents and non-residents under the new policy," he said. "We will be able to maintain the di-

versity we need."

He pointed to the Oregon Minority Enrollment Initiative as being one way that diversity will be able to exist at the University. This program is one of several that provide financial assistance to out of state residents.

"We want to attract qualified students," Christensen said.

Pinckney said the committee is being done away with because of a lack of student participation. Students have not been active for some time on the committee, she said.

This is not the case, however, Christensen said.

"It was part of the residency provision and we made a policy decision to change the provision," he said.

The reorganization process will not be immediate and could take as long as four years. There will be a hearing today at 11:30 a.m. in Bean Hall East to discuss the reorganization.

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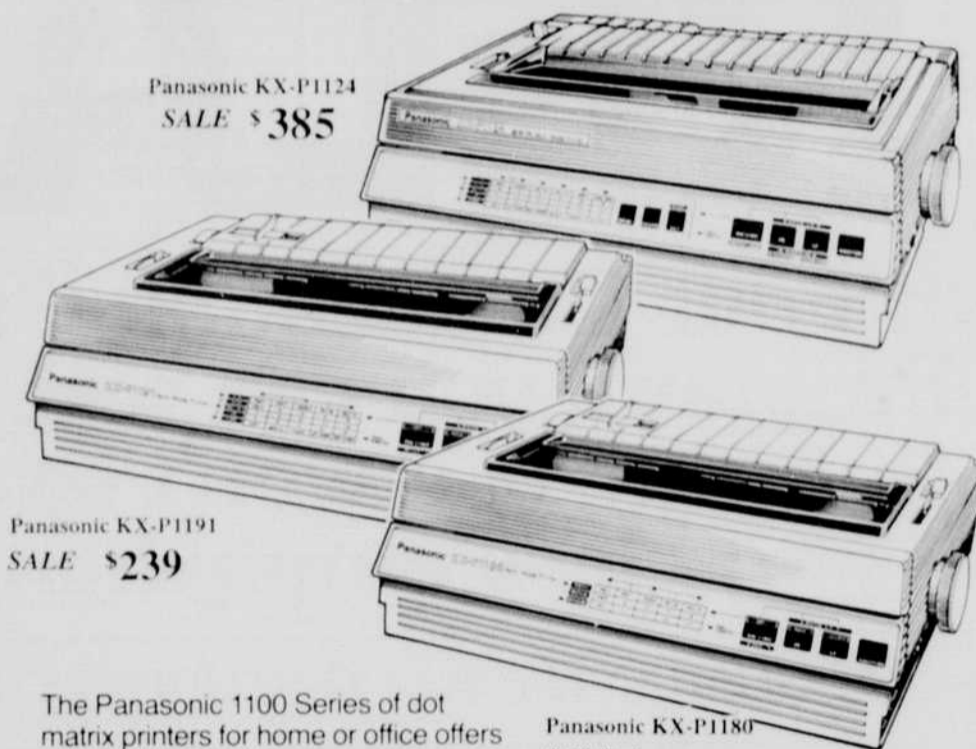
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