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## Law school could lose accreditation next year

By Chris Bouneff  
Emerald Associate Editor

The University law school has one year to increase funding and improve academic conditions or face having its accreditation revoked, the American Bar Association warned in a letter to President Myles Brand.

The Jan. 30 letter is the latest in a series of events stemming from last fall when the ABA notified the law school it had until December 1989 to respond to complaints from the ABA's accreditation committee.

This time, however, the law school must provide evidence of progress by Dec. 15 to satisfy the ABA's accreditation requirements.

"This is a dramatic indication of the serious underfunding problem that faces the University and the state system (of higher education)," Brand said at a Thursday afternoon press conference.

The ABA's main complaints were the low level of faculty salaries, an inadequate law library budget, and the lack of resources to provide a sound educational program.

"To me it's not a surprise," said Chapin Clark, associate dean of the law school. Clark acted as spokesman for the law school in absence of Dean Maurice Holland who is ill.

"It's part of the general underfunding of the University," Clark said. "This happens to be the manifestation of this here in the law school."

University officials maintain the threat of disaccreditation is hollow, although this new round of letter writing by the ABA indicates the situation is more serious than last fall.

No law school associated with a large state school has ever lost its accreditation, Holland said when the first threat of disaccreditation was made last fall.

Brand said law school and

University administrators will prepare an interim report during the next several months outlining steps the University will take to address the ABA's concerns.

The report will probably go before the Oregon State Board of Higher Education for approval in May, Brand said.

Brand said he was upset that the accreditation committee did not consider the quality of education at the law school but based its complaints on the size of the law library and the level of funding.

Brand and Holland appeared before the committee in Pasadena, Calif. during a January meeting, at which time the officials explained new initiatives taken by the University, including a dramatic increase in fees for law students.

"We pointed out the quality of the faculty and students is very high," Brand said. "They did not raise any questions about the quality of education."

However, the committee concluded in its letter that the law school had not given "adequate assurance" that the ABA's concerns over funding would be addressed. ABA representatives were unavailable for comment Thursday.

The State System of Higher Education plans to ask the legislative Emergency Board in March for a \$12 million appropriation to fund faculty salary raises, which would help address one of the ABA's complaints, Brand said.

If the state system can solve the faculty salary problem, then other revenue can be used to improve conditions in the law library, he said.

Reaction from law professors and students ranged from bland surprise to dissatisfaction with the state Legislature.

"This is as good as a result as we could get," said law profes-

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## Water works

A student in the University's Aqua Aerobics I class gets a workout in Gerlinger's Leighton Pool Thursday night.

Photo by Jennifer Smith

## Hesitation to study black women in politics hinders enlightenment

By Alice Thornton  
Emerald Reporter

Professor Jewel Prestage, a visiting scholar from Texas, told a group of students and faculty there has been a reluctance to study black women in politics.

In a speech co-sponsored by the Political Science Department and the Center For Study of Women in Society, Prestage spoke on the quest for the black political woman.

Prestage is an activist and an honors professor of political science at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. She has held the position of vice president of the American Political Association and has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as one

of the Nation's leading authorities on black women in politics.

Prestage said the study of black women in politics begins from the studies of blacks and women individually throughout history.

The overall study of blacks in politics did not receive much attention until after World War II, Prestage said.

"Scholarly attention to political behavior of women has been restricted to the last two decades," she said.

"Historians have been more interested than political scientists in studying women's political behavior," Prestage said.

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## State-of-the-art telephones, different prefixes in store for University

By Stephanie Mencimer  
Emerald Contributor

On Saturday, February 10, the University will become part of a state-wide \$19 million telecommunications system that will link all eight campuses in the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Beginning Saturday, University telephone prefixes will change from 686 to 346 and the old electromechanical system will be replaced with a network capable of state-of-the-art communications with a voice message system, call forwarding, and video transmission capabilities.

The new system will be able to handle up to 32,000 users including students living in campus housing. After spring break, students living in the dorms will have phones in their rooms included in housing costs without the current \$80 deposit and other installation charges.

Under the old system, the minimum cost of phone service in a dorm room was \$109.37. Once the new system is in place, phone service will be only \$15 for a single occupancy room and \$7.50 for a double.

"Essentially, we are like a phone company now, whereas

before, the telephone office was just a billing office," said David Barta, University telecommunications manager.

Students will sign up for

allow them to make long distance calls from any campus phone.

The new system is designed to select the least expensive

**'The project is on time and on budget, which is really hard to do on a state project.'**

— David Barta

long distance service through the University. All students who sign up will receive an authorization code that will work like a calling card and

routing for outgoing long distance calls and students will benefit from discounted long distance service for night calls.

In addition, all administration and faculty phones will have voice "mailboxes" which enable callers to leave recorded messages and send messages to several people at the same time.

The transition to the new phone system will occur in two stages. On Saturday the existing 4500 campus phones will be switched over to the new prefix. The student phones will be installed in March.

Barta said the \$4.6 million project has gone fairly smooth-

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