

Students pay price for revenue-sharing

Over the last few years, the pattern has been painfully clear. Students pay higher fees and are offered fewer opportunities for a quality education. The recent revenue-sharing plan approved by the administration is an excellent example of this.

Beginning in June, all revenue-generating programs at the University (except those supported by student incidental fees) will turn over 1 percent of their budgets to fund and implement new programs. The four biggest revenue generators — the EMU, Student Health Center, Athletic Department, and University Housing — together will turn over \$300,000 of the \$1 million per year expected.

Academic programs within departments that generate income, such as workshops and seminars charging a fee, will also be asked to pitch in their 1 percent.

Students, already faced with rising tuition costs and fees, as always, will pay the price.

University Housing will turn over \$100,000 a year, and students will pay higher room and board costs to make up for the loss.

Prices will also go up at the Main Desk and Fishbowl as the EMU tries to cover the \$24,000 it will lose every year. The same will be true for the Student Health Center.

Officials with the Athletic Department say they aren't sure if ticket prices will increase, but turning over their 1 percent will not help their already struggling programs.

The heads of these departments have gone on record saying they realize handing over the money is necessary, although most have said so with at least some hesitancy.

Yes, new programs are needed at the University, and if passing the hat around to auxiliary departments is the only way to raise money, so be it. The University has to grow to meet the needs of more and more students. But growth — healthy growth, at any rate — is never achieved if a body has to cannibalize itself, which is exactly what is going on among the University's departments.

Students are paying more for less, as proved by last summer's budget cuts. Programs and entire courses of study have been cut away from the University's offerings, and students are already paying in that respect. There is, of course, only one way out. The Legislature must get its act together for funding the state's education system, and soon. If the University is to experience any kind of appreciable growth to accommodate the needs of its students, more money needs to come from the state, not our own departments.



Law school students should boycott classes

Law school students are being asked to skip classes all day Thursday for a worthy cause.

The Diversity Coalition at the law school wants to call attention to the lack of minorities — including women, gays and lesbians, people of color and people with disabilities — at the school and in the legal profession in general.

Law schools across the nation are planning activities Thursday to promote greater participation by these traditionally under-represented groups.

At our own law school, the faculty includes one gay professor, and four women professors, including one with a disability. There are no people of color on the.

Lack of funding is part of the reason the law school hasn't hired a minority professor in four years. But the law school may also have difficulty attracting minority students and faculty members alike to an overwhelmingly white school where they may feel uncomfortable.

In preparation for Thursday, the Diversity Coalition has undertaken an educational campaign to make law students more sensitive to the problems of minorities. The coalition has also scheduled a speakers forum on the steps of the law building from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and they will be collecting signatures for a petition to be sent to national, state and University officials.

To their credit, the Diversity Coalition has chosen to call attention to the dearth of minority faculty members and students at the law school with a peaceful observance. The speakers forum is scheduled at a time when few law school classes are in session to make it easier for those students who are not boycotting classes to attend. The coalition has also asked professors unwilling to cancel their classes Thursday to at least mention the problem of attracting and retaining minorities in the legal profession.

We encourage all law students to participate in Thursday's class boycott, to attend the speakers forum and to sign the petitions. Diversity is especially important in the legal profession, which is obligated to fight discrimination and to fairly represent everyone in society.

But we also urge students to do more to make their concerns heard. Because the Diversity Coalition has asked students and professors to give up an entire day of classes, the coalition should plan activities throughout the day, not just at noon. These activities could include anything from a letter-writing campaign to a peaceful demonstration outside the law building.

Speeches and petitions are an important step in raising awareness of the importance of diversity at the law school. But without more visible and more vocal protests, Thursday's activities are likely to be overlooked — something minorities cannot afford.

Letters

Beer

When my brother was 18 years old and a senior in high school, the drinking age for beer was 18. He and his friends, when they chose to drink, had legal access to "beer bars," which served no hard liquor.

In 1984, with prodding from MADD, Ronald Reagan signed a federal bill which forced every state in the nation to raise their drinking age to 21. Guess what happened? Teenage drinking ceased to exist, and soon after, drinking and driving became obsolete. Wrong. Both continued to increase.

Passing laws and sending letters to students will not alleviate teenage drinking, or huge parties. College students merely want to go places and meet other men and women, and

have a beer when they do so. The fact that "adult minors" (between 18-21) are denied access to watering holes results in huge "riotous" parties.

People are going to have some beers after a long week of school if they want to. In fraternities, someone will buy you beer; in the dorms, someone's got a fake i.d. If there's a will, there's a way.

So if you want to stop the problem, stop the laws that cause it. Open up beer bars for 18-year olds. Let the fraternities have their kegs back. Then the police are not put in the position of enforcing stupid drinking laws they did not create, and starting riots when adult minors diffuse from one (manageable) drinking spot to another unofficial one.

Tyler Hoffman
Student

Barriers

I appreciate the *Oregon Daily Emerald's* interest in the graduation rate issue (March 7, 1990 editorial). This is indeed a matter of great concern to me; however, the editorial misrepresented my views, implying that I think all or most students should graduate in four years. That is false. I am primarily concerned that there be no barriers to students' progress at the University.

I fully understand that the pattern of graduation has shifted from four to five or even six years. In fact, this shift has many positive features, giving some students the ability to broaden their education and others the opportunity to support themselves financially. But, nonetheless, our graduation rates after five or six years

are below universities with which we compare ourselves. For example, for freshman who entered in 1982, more than 50 percent failed to graduate after six years.

I am concerned that there might not be institutional impediments which have a negative impact on our graduation rates. The advising system, both University-wide and at the department level, the ability to enter a major, the availability of courses, and so on, should not stand in the way of a student's progress. The Undergraduate

Education Task Force, on which I will serve, will examine these issues and then make recommendations for removing any barriers.

The graduation rate may already be improving, but my main point remains: Students who want to graduate in four, five, or even six years should be able to do so. Institutional barriers to student progress should be eliminated.

Myles Brand
University president

Letters Policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.