

## RECRUITING

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law school, asking them to contact their undergraduate institutions or undergraduate universities near them to provide information about the University's law program.

Once a minority student expresses interest in the University, the law school tries hard to follow up on that interest.

So far, recruitment efforts have been working.

The recent increase in the number of minority students is a good sign, Young said. "But it is not just recruitment," he said. "The school has to create an environment where someone can get their degree."

To help retain minority and non-traditional students once they enroll, the law school created an academic support program for them. The program consists of a two-week orientation program in the fall and an ex-

tensive tutorial program that lasts throughout the first year of law school.

Both Young and Odion Okojie, also a third-year law student and a Diversity Coalition member, agree that the academic support program is working well.

In the past, minority students often dropped out of law school for academic reasons, Okojie said. The University's support program has been so successful at keeping students in school that other law schools are patterning their own programs after it.

The Oregon State Bar also offers support and a variety of financial programs for minority students, including clerkship programs that pay an hourly stipend to employers who hire minority clerks; conditional loans, for which repayment may be waived when the student becomes a member of the Oregon State Bar; and a Minority Scholarship Program.

## FUNDING

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iversity area in the Legislature, said plans such as the fee increase are a "quick fix" and are ultimately detrimental to the mission of public higher education in the state.

Unfortunately for students, tuition and fee hikes are becoming common. University undergraduates face a \$61 per-term increase in their tuition this fall; non-residents, \$227.

"That's a cowardly approach to higher ed funding," Dix said. "People figure the students aren't going to complain about higher tuition and that they don't vote anyway. Raising tuition is a short-term solution, and it's driving people away from school."

Dix said the Legislature needs to find reliable and fair ways of funding faculty salaries and other education costs.

With the fee increase already set in stone, Holland said he is cautiously optimistic the Legislature will approve the law school's request for \$750,000 more.

But, he said, the case for the increased law school budget will have to be made effectively in the Legislature for many reasons, one being that some legislators believe the state "has too many lawyers already."

With two private law schools in the state, Holland said, some taxpayers resent subsidizing legal education at a public university.

Holland said he disagrees with them.

"Social mobility is important in the legal profession," he said. "The legal profession plays

an important role in the assurance in the guarantee of equal opportunity to the rest of society.

"It is important in its own ranks that the legal profession exemplify opportunity for people without regard to economic circumstances."

Holland said that although the ABA's letter may have cast a negative light on the University and the higher education system, it ultimately may have benefited the school.

"(The ABA) antagonizes a lot of people, they bother people because there are people who think that funding decisions are not the ABA's business," he said. "I think the ABA plays a very important role in assuring that schools remain up to standard. And we have not been, in terms of funding."

One major project remains: expanding the law library by 25,000 square feet to allow for more seating space. Holland said the \$4.2 million plan will probably have to wait for another legislative biennium, possibly 1995-97.

Dix said capital construction projects such as the law library expansion will probably be approved.

There have been high points for education budgets in recent legislative sessions — the University's new science buildings and improvements to other structures, for instance — but he said other facets of higher education also need repair.

"Bricks and mortar and buildings did very well," he said. "But if we don't start addressing some of the long-term funding issues, such as faculty salaries, we're going to have a neutron bomb effect on these campuses; we'll have beautiful buildings and no people teaching in them."



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