

Brand takes tour of HEP facilities

By Cathy Peterson
Emerald Reporter

University President Myles Brand and several University administrators toured the High School Equivalency Program facility Tuesday.

"We could use a bathroom and a water faucet... and money," HEP Director Steve Marks-Fife told the visitors.

Vice President Dan Williams, College of Education Dean Robert Gilberts and Affirmative Action Director Diane Wong joined Brand on what one HEP staff member said was the first University administration visit to the 17th Avenue facility in a long time.

"We certainly hope this is not a one-time shot and that we won't not see University administrators here for another year," recruiter Oscar Hernandez said.

But Hernandez said the attention from the administrators sent a strong message. "Their visit legitimizes the program — it says 'we are here,'" he said.

The program, which was established at the University in 1967, prepares migrant or seasonal farm workers to pass the GED, an exam that grants them the equivalency of a high school diploma.

About 85 percent of the students graduate from the program, one of the largest residential programs in the country, and almost half of those students go on to college.

"The visit went great. It's great just to have them here," Marks-Fife said.

HEP, which Marks-Fife said has a \$425,000 budget this year, pays the University for dormitory use and other student services. Its funding comes from the federal govern-

ment. Program recruiter Hernandez told the administrators that students should be given better services and more access to University classes in return for the money paid to the University by HEP.

Brand said involving HEP students in University classes is one way to make HEP more visible to the rest of campus. "We need to let the campus community know about this program," he said.

Brand also said he was impressed with the number of graduates who go on to college, but Marks-Fife said most of the HEP graduates who do, choose Oregon State University over the University. That is partly because of an OSU program similar to HEP called CAMP, he said, adding that better recruitment for motivated HEP students might help.



Photo by Sean Poston

University President Myles Brand and other University administrators got a better look at the High School Equivalency Program when HEP Director Steve Marks-Fife (left) led them on a tour of the program's building.

During the tour, Marks-Fife jumped up and down on a bowed classroom floor to show Brand the weak boards. Marks-Fife also pointed to a shut door that he said was an unusable

bathroom with bad plumbing. The staff has repainted and carpeted most of the rooms, but the old buildings will need more repair, HEP staff members said.

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"In the interim, we need to be planning for the worst," Guardino said. "We have to be conservative about what revenue will be lost."

Long said making spending cuts in the school district's current budget would be "dangerous."

"The notion of reducing the budget right now is not recommended," he said. "We don't want to make changes mid-year because it might disrupt the kids in the classroom."

School financing has gotten the most attention during the Measure 5 debate, but the law has many other ramifications. Local services, such as fire and police protection, will compete for dwindling property tax revenue.

Guardino said no decisions have been made about what services and programs will be cut first, but mentioned Downtown Development as a likely victim.

"It really depends on what the community priorities are," he said. "We have to figure out what programs we can cut. I can't speculate on the needs and wants of the community."

In an Oct. 2 memo to the city council, Guardino said Measure 5 would cost Eugene between \$900,000 and \$2.4 million next year. If the expected economic recession takes hold, that figure could grow.

"Our projections show a lot greater hit on revenue loss if we're in a recession," he said.

The Eugene School District has one of the largest budgets of any school district in the state, with a total of over \$96 million for the current year. Over \$60 million comes from property tax levies and past-due collections.

"There's no way to run schools without replacement revenue," Long said. "Right now, the schools are in receivership to the state, and we're going to have to wait for them to solve the problems."

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are hoping that the Legislature will come up with a new plan to fund higher education.

"A lot of the talk (about spending cuts) is premature because we don't know how the Legislature is going to handle it," said Mike Colson, Incidental Fee Committee chairman.

He said funding of student groups should not be affected by Measure 5 — at least not directly — because the money allocated by the IFC comes from student fees, not from the state.

However, belt-tightening measures across campus will have some effect on student's attitudes toward the incidental fees they pay each term and on the IFC's allocation philosophy, Colson said.

"The IFC is going to look long and hard at holding down student fees, which are some of the highest in the nation," he said.

Besides educating students on the possible effects of Measure 5, ASUO's Manning said she is gathering information and examining the effects of

budget cuts made in 1983 during the last recession.

Manning said she has found that many of the cutbacks made seven years ago, when the University had to trim \$2 million from its budget, were intended to be "temporary," but many of the programs eliminated have never been restored.

"We need to know this kind of stuff so when (administrators) come to us and say, 'Let's get rid of this program for now; we can bring it back later,' we can say 'Don't kid us.'"



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