

# Many students finding four years not enough

By Stacy Ivie  
Emerald Associate Editor

The pattern used to be standard. College-bound students would put in their four years and then join the work force.

However, attaining a bachelors degree in four years has become much less common than it used be.

Out of the University's freshman class of 1984-85, somewhere between 16 and 19 percent of students completed undergraduate work in 1988, according to the University registrar office.

Those are average figures with rates varying only a percent or two during the last 10 years, said Anne Leavitt, assistant to the vice provost in student affairs.

"There are a lot of factors that affect students getting through in four years," she said.

These factors include finances, lack of adequate advising, outside interests such as family and work, and students vacillating between majors.

Nationally, fewer students are graduating within a four year period, according to *The American College Student: 1988*, a study conducted by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program based at the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA.

"Fewer than two freshmen in five

(35.1 percent) earn a bachelor's degree in four years, compared to nearly half (46.7 percent) of the 1966 freshmen," the study showed, using a research project done in 1971 by Alexander Astin, CIRP director, for comparison.

The study also found that women are more likely than men to complete an undergraduate program within four years.

CIRP includes information on about 1,300 institutions and more than 8 million students.

The University is following that trend, Leavitt said.

"A lot of students are choosing five years instead of the traditional four," she said.

University President Myles Brand said taking five years to finish makes sense.

"It gives students more exploration in various courses, and a lot of students have to work to make ends meet," he said.

About 91 percent of incoming freshmen at the University are making it through the first three terms of college, and between 75 and 80 percent will return for a second year, according to the registrar's office.

The number of graduates increases greatly during the five years and six year point at the University, with about

39 percent getting a degree in five years and 44 percent taking six years to finish, Leavitt said.

"Our sixth year graduation rate is not as good as it should be," Brand said. "It is below national figures. If they don't graduate in six years, it's likely they won't graduate at all."

So how many students actually complete a degree?

"More than half," Leavitt said. "That's pretty good for a public university of this size."

However, many students are finding that even after they get their degree, the battle is not yet over.

"It's a job to find a job," said Larry Smith, director of the University's Career Planning and Placement Service. "It is particularly hard to find one that is interesting and potentially a career."

According to a survey done in spring of 1988 by Career Planning and Placement, 82 percent of the graduating class found employment before graduation.

Most graduates (63 percent) found employment in Oregon, while 17 percent went to California and 6 percent to Washington.

The Midwest put claims on 5 percent and foreign countries and other western states employed 4 percent each of University graduates.

All in all, 7 percent of the polled

graduates were still searching for employment at the time of graduation.

"That's just about average, because within that 7 percent are students who are traveling or didn't intend to work after graduation," Smith said.

Of the 82 percent that had found work, a mere 53 percent held a full-time career-related position.

"It is not unusual for a large number of students to not be working in their field," Smith said. "An awful lot of our students don't have a clear idea of what they want to do when they graduate so they enter into positions to provide them with a steady income so they can be independent."

The University is producing more graduates in business administration/finance, economics, and psychology than any other majors. However, architecture, journalism and political science are running close behind.

In the career planning study, the average income for a 1988 graduate ran just about \$16,000 a year.

"Wages are increasing from 5 percent to 7 percent a year," he said. "I expect that they will go up 5 percent this year."

Thirteen percent of the 1988 graduates went directly into jobs that provided a salary of \$25,000 annually or more, according to the study.

# SETA gets sizable budget increase for 1991-92

By Catherine Hawley  
Emerald Associate Editor

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals received a boost in its funding from student incidental fees from its current level of \$239 per year to \$802 for the 1991-92 school year.

SETA and three other student groups were funded Friday at the Incidental Fee Committee's first budget hearings session of the school year.

The increase in funding will permit SETA to establish its own telephone line next year and decrease its dependence on the Survival Center, said SETA director Monica Semeria.

SETA, which has been on campus since 1987, now uses the phone line in the Survival Center, which is also providing \$50 per month from its budget to provide a work-study stipend to Semeria.

"We would like to be less dependent on the Survival Center and use less of their re-

Group	1990-91	1991-92
Literary Society	\$4,648	\$4,570
ACT	\$2,593	\$2,656
SETA	\$239	\$802
CIE	\$941	\$685

sources," Semeria told committee members Friday.

SETA, in its first year as an IFC-funded group, submitted a budget proposal to ASUO finance coordinators several weeks ago that included a \$486 request for a director's stipend and a \$1,200 request for speakers fees.

Finance coordinators Sam Nehm and Ed Henderson, who worked with Semeria during SETA's budgeting process, did not include the stipend in their recommendation to the IFC and reduced the speakers line item to \$100.

"I'm happy with most of the outcome," Semeria said Sunday. "I wish we could have got the stipend, but I understand

their reasonings why."

The Literary Society received the largest allocation of the session — \$4,570, slightly less than the \$4,648 it received for this year. A cut was made in the group's office supplies budget, and \$48 mistakenly allocated this year for a phone was eliminated from the 1991-92 budget.

The Literary Society holds regular readings of graduate and undergraduate students' writings and publishes *Timberline*, an annual magazine featuring poetry, fiction and artwork by University students.

Amazon Community Tenants, an organization for residents of the family housing area, was allocated \$2,656 for

next year. The \$69 increase will be combined with money cut from other areas to pay a stipend for a research assistant to work with the University housing department on its plans to renovate Amazon Family Housing, Director Linda Pearsall said.

Campus Information Exchange, which provides students with access to national and international computer information-sharing networks, took a 27 percent decrease in its 1991-92 budget. The group will receive \$685 in incidental fees next year.

The cut was mutually agreed upon by CIE Director Chris Delay and the ASUO finance coordinators, making the reduction

legal under the Clark Document.

The document, which outlines guidelines for IFC procedures, stipulates that budget reductions for traditionally funded programs cannot exceed 25 percent unless the program director requests such a reduction.

Nehm said records show CIE has not been spending 25 to 30 percent of its allocated budget. CIE had a 44 percent reduction in its current budget from its 1989-90 budget.

Delay said previous CIE directors had requested larger budget amounts. The amount allocated in the last two years "keeps us running," he said.

In other business, the committee unanimously voted to grant the Student Senate a \$135 special allocation to pay for senators' stipends. The 1990-91 budget submitted by last year's senate chair was incorrect, and not enough money was requested to pay stipends, Senate Vice President Laura DeLeone said.

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