



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

February 1991

To Graduate Students in Closed or Reduced Programs:

As a result of Measure 5 program reductions and closures, you need to give serious consideration to the way these cuts might affect completion of your degree. Although the Graduate School and the University will make every effort to ensure the integrity of affected degree programs during the next biennium, you should know that the departure of faculty, reduction of the curriculum, loss of GTF support, and progressive decline in departmental resources have the potential to disrupt your orderly progress to graduation, and possibly your ability to complete your degree at the University of Oregon.

Because these program reduction proposals are so new, there has been insufficient time to discuss fully all of the implications of programs closures, reductions, and reorganizations. Nor have I and my staff been able to detail how the students in individual departments and programs may be impacted. The Graduate School's intention, however, is to provide maximum flexibility during the coming months in dealing with program requirements, master's and doctoral committee structure, and petitions for waiver from normal policy and procedure.

Your first step in assessing your situation is to meet with your faculty adviser or committee chair to discuss your curricular needs and the time it will take you to complete your degree. Your adviser will be most able to inform you about these matters. Additionally, you might discuss the future availability of course work in your department, the likely stability of your faculty committee, the potential for utilizing the joint campus registration policies of OSSHE, and consideration of changing departments or taking advantage of UO's interdisciplinary degree options. Regrettably, these discussions may also need to include considering the feasibility of transferring to another university.

Let me again assure you that the Graduate School will adopt a posture of maximum flexibility in assisting you to complete your program of study while not compromising the University of Oregon's high academic standards. You should, however, plan to complete your degree no later than the end of the summer term 1993. After this time, it is unlikely that course offerings and faculty resources will be sufficient to sustain degree offering in closed departments. Further discussions with the President, Provost, Graduate Council, and affected departments will help to clarify these issues within the next several weeks.

Part of the Measure 5 program cuts involve funding for Graduate Teaching Fellows. At the present time, it is not clear what the precise impact of these cuts will be on GTFs and academic programs during the next biennium. As developments warrant, the Graduate School, the Provost's Office, or your college's dean will advise your department about the availability of GTF funding for the next academic year.

Please remember that I and my staff are available to answer your questions, to advise you about different procedural options, and to support you as you work toward completion of your degree. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can assist you during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Steadman Upham
Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

To Undergraduate Students in Closed or Reduced Programs:

Dear Students:

The passage of Ballot Measure 5 has meant that the University of Oregon must plan to cut its budget and academic programs. The review of the recommendations made for the closing or relocation of academic programs will continue on campus until February 9th. Subsequently, the final recommendations will be reported to the State Board of Higher Education on March 1st, and are subject to review by the Governor and the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Because the outcome of these deliberations is not yet final, I can only offer the following assurances and advice at this time to students whose programs are recommended for closing.

If an undergraduate student has been accepted by June 15, 1991, in a major by a department that is being closed and has completed 90 or more credit hours, the University will do everything possible to allow completion of that degree program within a reasonable but yet undetermined amount of time (probably by August 1993.)

Undergraduate students who have not yet been accepted in a major being closed or who have not completed 90 hours of work in such program should seek admission to an alternative major.

As a result of the budget crisis we are recommending that the new 5th-year teacher-certification program also be closed--with the exception of Music Education, which will conduct its own program. A student at the University of Oregon intending to be a teacher may complete an undergraduate subject-matter degree (e.g., Chemistry, Mathematics, History), and then apply to a teacher-education program at another institution for 5th-year certification.

The University of Oregon terminated its 4-year teacher-certification programs last year. Students interested in obtaining a 4-year (basic) teaching certificate should transfer to another institution.

Please consult advisers in your department and the Office of Academic Advising. I regret very much that the University has been compelled to recommend the elimination and reduction of so many fine programs. Be assured that we shall inform you promptly of all developments in this regard.

Sincerely,

Norman K. Wessells

cc Pres. Brand

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