

tion haven't had time (to work their way up)."

Troung worked in strawberry fields as a boy, where earning a few dollars was highly valued. The prospect of having to repay thousands of dollars in loans is overwhelming enough to keep some from even trying to attend college, he said.

To help create more opportunities. Asian American students are lobbying the University administration and the state board to review the scholarship program.

"What we'd like to ask is for them to conduct some kind of study into individual Asian countries and qualify some of them for scholarships because that's serving more justice than lumping everybody into one category," Lee said.

Marshall Saucedo, acting director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, which administers the UMASP scholarships at the University, is advocating for Asian Americans to be included in the program. But he said changing the way Asian Americans are categorized would be a complicated undertaking.

The state system monitors how many minority students go from high school to college on data from Oregon public schools, Saucedo said. This data is used to determine which groups are included in the scholarship program.

However, this information is far from exact, he said.

"In some schools, the teacher just looks around the class and says, 'You look black, you look brown,' "Saucedo said, "The information is gathered in somewhat of a haphazard manner.

"You have all Asian students that come under this umbrella term," Saucedo said. "If you look at certain subgroups under that umbrella, you see that some are probably underrepresented. But if you can't come up with the numbers, you can't substantiate the claim."

Determining which Asian American groups are not well represented would be difficult. he said, and require a change in the way state schools and the University keep records. "We're not ... saying this program is wrong, but we're saying how about including an Asian Pacific American in your program." said Jon Motohiro, a Japanese American student "Granted that the emphasis should be on the other student groups that are underrepresented, but to exclude one group, it's hard to accept."

In addition to lobbying for scholarship changes, many Asian American students are also concerned about the lack of an Asian American studies class. Although such a course is listed in the class schedule every term, it has not actually been offered for about 10 years.

In protest, Lee and Motohiro refused at a ceremony two weeks ago to accept University minority leadership awards sponsored by OMA.

"We wanted to make a statement, to get our point across that we're serious about what we're addressing." Motohiro said. "An award is great but I'd rather have a class or see some Asian Pacific American getting a scholarship. It's not a matter of money, it's a matter of pride."

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said this course has not been taught in almost 10 system, she said, years.

"Asian Americans are a big part of the University and of the U.S.," said Gary Hoh, a student and representative on the Council for Minority Education. "It is unexcusable for a major university not to teach a course about Asian Americans."

"It's a good class for Asian Americans but we've also got to get the white majority in Oregon to know about it, too," said Justin Heung. Asian/Pacific American Student Union member

"There are a lot of whites who don't understand us, who don't understand our culture. We've got to learn about ourselves but other people have got to learn about us as well, otherwise the stereotypes will never disappear."

"There have been some arguments about whether this course is necessary." said Jon Motohiro, a member of the Asian/Pacific American Student Union. "The bottom line about this is that anyone can learn that racial prejudice does not pay. All it does is hurt other people. It's important to keep this in mind when we fight for this class."

The registrar's data for the last nine years shows the University population of Asian American students is more than all the school's other ethnic minority populations combined.

Edwinia Welch, an advisor and admittance counselor for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, said ethnic minority enrollment has been steadily increasing at the University for the last decade and that Asian Americans have been at the forefront of this growth. The University has one of the largest populations of students who identify themselves as Asian Americans in the Oregon higher education system, she said.

All the growth, however, has not lead to greater recognition.

APASU plans to raise awareness of the issue by involving the administration, faculty and students. University President Myles Brand will meet with several Asian American students this week to discuss the possibility of re-establishing the class.

"He's aware of the issue and is convinced that a need does exist," said Marshall Sauceda of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, who arranged the meeting.

"He is interested in making this course a reality," he said.

The group began its efforts last term by raising the issue with Coleman and petitioning the Council for Minority Education and the OMA to reinstate the Asian American experience course.

"Professor Coleman claims that they don't have the money to bring in a professor to teach this course." Hoh said. "We think there is money because other ethnic minority courses have always been provided for."

When the request for reinstatement the course had been deferred by the administration, the group took the next step and began to approach faculty, students and community members. More than 300 people signed petitions circulated by the organization.



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