



Seniors wait weeks to receive diplomas

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter.

If waiting four or five years to be handed that hard-earned diploma isn't long enough, University graduates have to wait still longer following the commencement ceremonies to receive their diplomas.

University graduates are mailed their diplomas four to eight weeks following commencement day, whereas Oregon State University graduates are handed their diplomas on the day of commencement.

University Registrar Herbert Chereck said the discrepancy between the two institutions lies in the amount of processing and extra effort from the faculty that it takes to deliver the diplomas on graduation day.

"OSU seniors have to take their finals a week early, faculty has to coordinate two sets of exams and grades are a real challenge for (the OSU faculty)," Chereck said. "We don't hand diplomas out on graduation day because there's a lot more processing involved and it's more work for faculty to prepare a double set of exams."

Oregon State Registrar Barbara Balz said Oregon State had decided to hand out diplomas on the day of commencement despite the extra effort.

"To give them out on commencement day is not easy," Balz said. "It takes a lot of resources."

In order to ensure that they receive all unpaid fees from graduating seniors, both Oregon's and Oregon State's registrars retain the student's transcripts until the fees have been paid.

Chereck said the delay in mailing out diplomas has nothing to do with unpaid fees. Graduates who fail to pay fees still receive their diploma, he said.

Also, as graduation approaches, University seniors are digging still deeper into their pockets to pay for the \$25 graduation application fee.

In fact, the University is the only educational institution in the state that imposes a graduation fee, which Chereck termed a "processing fee," for completing the grade requirements clearance for general education and the graduate's major department.

This fee is also used as a tool to deter seniors who aren't serious about graduating when they apply, Chereck said.

"We're finding that 25 to 30 percent of the students who apply for graduation do not actually graduate for a variety of reasons," he said.

Chereck said he hopes this fee will deter the non-serious students because the same amount of work goes into processing the senior's application whether or not the student graduates, he said.

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Muhammad Oliver

Oregon decathlete Muhammad Oliver is the first Dick to qualify for the NCAA Track and Field Championships so far this season. The senior, who finished fourth at the national meet last spring, scored a personal record 7,751 at a decathlon meet in Tempe, Ariz. March 18-19. Oliver also started at comeback for the Oregon football team in the fall.



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