

Associate AD foresees adding women's sport

By Erick Studenicka
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University Senate is scheduled to vote today on a gender equity resolution that would call for some major changes within the athletic department, including the addition of 25 participation slots within five years in the women's athletic program.

Gender Equity
Second of three parts

In order to gain a perspective on the athletic department's view with associate athletic director Barbara Walker. Walker supervises Oregon's non-revenue sports and serves as the athletic department's primary administrator for Pacific-10 Conference and NCAA matters.

ODE: Does the athletic department have an official stance toward the gender equity resolution proposed by the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee?

Barbara Walker: We're in total agreement with that statement. We were involved in the formulation of the policy. Again though, there are a lot of unanswered questions nationally on this subject and on what is exactly gender equity. We're waiting to see what is being done nationally and at the conference level, and trying to be proactive in developing our own policy as well.

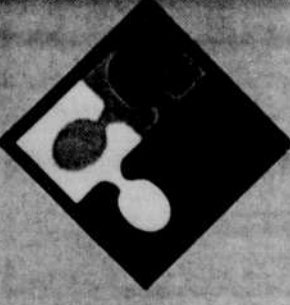
ODE: Even though the resolution would not be binding to the athletic department, would the athletic department try to implement the proposals in the resolution?

Walker: I think we'll look very strongly at adding an additional women's sport within the next five years. As I read the proposal, the resolution calls for 25 more participants, not 25 more full-ride scholarships. A soccer or swimming team would have 25 participants, not 25 scholarships.

Those would probably be the sports we would look at, as each of those sports has around 20-25 squad members. Crew is also becoming a popular sport on the West Coast, and many Pac-10 schools are now fielding a crew team.

ODE: Right now, Oregon has the minimum number of men's and women's sports necessary to remain a Division I school. Is it possible the addition of a women's team might be at the cost of a men's team?

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