

Board studies credit hour cap

By Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

In an attempt to turn out graduates as quickly as possible in today's higher education funding crisis, state board members reviewed a plan last Friday that would substantially increase tuition for students exceeding a certain number of credit hours.

The policy will put a cap on undergraduate credit hours, charging students out-of-state tuition if they exceed 48 credit hours beyond their particular degree requirements.

University undergraduates need between 186 and 231 hours to earn a degree, depending on their major.

Board members reviewed the plan and put it on the July state system board meeting agenda, where it will be voted on. If favored, the policy would then begin fall 1994.

Board members decided to have a public hearing June 2 to gather more student and community input. Time and location of the hearing have not been set.

Board President Bob Bailey said although this is still only a proposal, he expects it to be

implemented.

"It's still just a proposal, and we're getting a lot of pressure from the legislature," Bailey said. "I believe some form of the proposal will pass, but probably with some special circumstances included."

The intent of the policy is to encourage students to complete their degrees and make room for more students, said Greg Parker, director of communications for the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Productive use of resources and lack of state funding initiated the proposal, Parker said.

"For every dollar that a student puts down for their undergraduate education, taxpayers put down two," he said. "So the idea is not to punish anyone, but to give students a strong motivation to identify their majors and pursue their academic program."

The state's General Fund currently subsidizes approximately two-thirds of the cost of undergraduate instruction. With decreasing funds for higher education, the state can no longer support additional credits, Park-

er said.

Parker said he doesn't foresee the board voting against the tuition change in July.

A sampling of the University, Portland State University and Western Oregon State College showed that a 48-credit-hour threshold would initially affect between 0.6 percent and 1.4 percent of the resident undergraduate students.

Joe Wade, director of Academic Advising and Student Services, said he doesn't believe the policy will affect a great number of students. He said a study the office did 18 months ago on students who exceeded 215 credits found most were transfers, returning students or had changed majors.

The board initially considered putting the cap on more than 32 credits with appropriate exceptions and waivers for those with double majors, certain transfer students and others.

However, the board decided to raise the threshold from 32 to 48 credit hours and possibly eliminate all chance for appeal, making it simpler to administer.

New college will try to end stereotypes

By Jen Ellison
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's International College will begin its one-year pilot program next fall as planned.

The pilot program will accept 45 American and 45 international freshmen. The students are required to live together in Riley Hall and every American student will have an international roommate.

The students will attend a three-class cluster that will focus on international issues such as cultural identification through literature and international politics.

The students will also be involved in numerous evening and weekend discussions and formal and informal activities.

The activities include discussions about topics brought up in class, guest speakers, student presentations about their home towns and community building exercises, Joe Stone, associate dean for social sciences, said.

If the pilot program goes well, the International College will become a four-year school, said Susan Plass, assistant vice provost for international affairs.

The four-year International College will require students to have proficiency in a foreign language, a study or work abroad experience and a senior year project where they integrate the work they've done in their major with international studies.

The pilot program is only open to incoming freshmen. The closing date for applications was April 15. Final selections for the program will be made by the end of next week.

Plass believes the program will be very successful. "This next year we will just be working out the bugs," Plass said. "There is enough enthusiasm on the part of the faculty and certainly enough enthusiasm on the part of the students to make this thing work."

The International College pilot program will involve six existing faculty members and a director, who has not been chosen yet. The plan is to have the director live in Riley Hall with the students.

The faculty members chosen to work in the program are currently working on the pilot program's curriculum.

The development for the program came from the realization that almost every field and every job can be combined with an international, cross-cultural orientation.

Plass emphasized the need for a greater understanding of other cultures in the United States to help battle racism.

"The goal of the college is to help students learn about other cultures, understand and appreciate diversity, break down stereotypes and help students understand themselves in a multicultural context," Plass said.

Faculty continue curriculum debate

By Sarah Clark
Oregon Daily Emerald

Faculty members continued to debate the merit of the new race, gender and non-European requirement at a Monday panel discussion.

Monday's calm discussion contrasted sharply from the combative atmosphere at the April 7 University Assembly meeting, where faculty narrowly approved the new requirement with a 175-155 vote.

A motion to reconsider the April 7 vote will come before the assembly Wednesday, May 5. If the motion passes, the two-course requirement will be open for debate and a new assembly vote.

Monday's panel discussion raised issues faculty members said they didn't have a chance to thoroughly discuss at last month's assembly meeting.

One issue concerns the kinds of courses that would be acceptable under the new, narrower guidelines.

Students and faculty who drafted the requirement said they wanted the requirement to help students deal with racial issues in society.

Art history Professor Esther Jacobson-Tepfer said she was worried that art courses, which allow minorities to study traditions of their culture, would not be included in the new requirement.

Physics Professor Davison Soper said the University should not be narrowing the courses stu-

dents can choose from.

"If students want these courses, why must we compel them to take these courses?" Soper asked.

Many faculty members are especially concerned about the topics that can fall under the requirement's first course, which addresses race relations in modern America by focusing on African-Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Americans and/or Latinos/Chicanos.

Faculty members have said the first course reflects a narrow political agenda by ignoring other minority groups in America.

"It targets certain races as appropriate for the subject when in fact racial hatred, once it's out, is likely to get at anyone," said religious studies Professor Jack Sanders.

Sanders said the first course's guidelines should broaden to include anti-Semitism, prejudice against Arabs, and a host of other issues.

Sociology Professor Sandra Morgen, co-chairwoman of the committee that drafted the new requirement, said the course is meant to focus on race, not racism. The committee chose the four racial groups based on how the U.S. Census Bureau classifies citizens, she said.

Other issues of concern include the cost of hiring new faculty for the requirement and the procedure for approving courses under the new guidelines.

CORRECTION

In the April 26 issue of the *Emerald*, two names were omitted from a list of candidates for one-year IFC positions.

The list should have read as follows:

- Braden D. Kelley
- Joel Bruner

- David Swartley
- Christopher Alexander
- Jian Liu
- Jack Orozco
- Esther Wong
- Tonija Lynelle Edwards

The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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