

Bill could equalize Oregon Need Grants

Mara Stine
Oregon Daily Emerald

A proposal that would help equalize the distribution of Oregon Need Grants among students attending private, public and community colleges is making its way through the state Legislature, an official with the Oregon State Scholarship Commission said.

House Bill 5030 would set the dollar amount of grants for all recipients at 11 percent of the average cost of attending a particular type of college, said Jim Beyer, director of the scholarship commission's grant program.

The grants are only available to low-income students.

"We think it is a fair and equitable way to execute the money," he said.

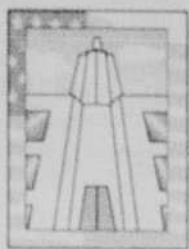
The education subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee is expected to vote on the bill Monday morning, he said. It is part of the scholarship commission's 1995-1997 budget recommendation.

If passed, it still must be voted on by the full Joint Ways and Means Committee to take effect.

Beyer said in 1993, the Legislature decided to give 45 percent of the grant money to public colleges and universities, 29 percent to private institutions, and 27 percent to community colleges.

"However, in the past private schools didn't get more than 18 percent of the money," Beyer said.

The 1993 decision diverted money from community col-



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leges to private schools while public schools lost only a little money, he said. Community college students eligible for the grants are currently awarded an average of \$756 a year. Public university and college students receive an average of \$990 a year, and private school students receive from \$1,632 to \$3,180 a year, he said.

If HB 5030 passes, students at private institutions will be awarded \$1,470 a year, Beyer said.

At the University, the 1,533 students who were awarded the grants received an average of \$888 a year, according to the University's Office of Financial Aid.

Private institution advocates have suggested a clause be added to the bill to ensure students no less than 80 percent of their current grant, said Rob Nosse, director of the Oregon Student Lobby.

Nosse said many private institutions have endowments, private contributions and other aid available to students, which the schools could give to students if their state grants are cut.

"Now they're going to have to pay for their own financial aid instead of relying on the state to do it," he said.

Health conference set for international students

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

International students who may not be informed about certain health issues in the United States can attend the second annual International Student Health Conference Friday and Saturday at the Student Health Center.

Students from colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest will learn about AIDS/HIV, cross-cultural relationships and communication, safer sex and other topics.

"It's an opportunity for international students to come together in a safe environment and address cross-cultural issues regarding health," said Naghmeh Moshtael, a graduate student and chair of the planning committee for the conference.

Moshtael said the goal of the conference is to have everyone leave with at least one piece of information pertaining to health that will help them or someone they know.

While last year's conference at Portland State University focused on HIV/AIDS awareness, this year's main topic will be friendship, intimacy and communication, said Moshtael.

Keynote speakers are from the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University and the health division of the state Department of Human Resources.

The conference, which is free but limited to the first 200 registrants, is sponsored by the University, the HIV Alliance, the Oregon Health Division, Portland State, Oregon State and Linn-Benton Community College.

Those interested can still register by calling the Student Health Center at 346-2728. The conference runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Women of Color Conference canceled; few came to session

The ASUO Women of Color Conference was canceled Wednesday morning because the keynote speaker was unable to make her flight and not many people showed up to attend.

Kathryn Flewellen, director of the Building Bridges Project for the National Immigration Forum, was scheduled to speak in the afternoon about the future of women of color, and in the evening about immigration issues.

Edwina Welch, director of the ASUO Women's Center, attributed the low attendance for the morning session to the Oregon Public Employees Union strike.

Welch said the next Women of Color Conference is planned for January 1996.

The conference, including meals, was free because several sponsors had donated money. Welch said the donations would be returned.

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