

Diversity: Oregon's policies have remained constant

■ Continued from Page 1

consideration to all minorities except Asian-Americans," she said.

Asian-Americans are not given special consideration because they are not under represented in the school system. Asian-Americans make up 39 percent of the undergraduate student body at the University of California at Berkeley, she said.

In contrast, the University of Oregon does not have a specific affirmative action plan for admissions like the University of California has had. Tracy Lampman, associate director of admissions, said the University does not give preference to minority applicants over other candidates.

However, she said, the University does have specific goals in recruiting minorities. The minimum goal for the University is to have the student body's minority percentages match with the state's minority percentages.

"We would never limit it to that," she said.

Martha Pitts, University director of admissions, said Oregon schools are not under the same enrollment pressures that University of California schools are under.

"The UC system is designed to serve only the top 7 or 12 percent of students in California high schools," she said.

Pitts said Oregon schools select students on the basis of whether they think that student will be able to succeed academically at the University. Part of the University's goals is to provide an education and atmosphere that will prepare students for the working world.

"We want to have a student body that is more like the workforce," she said.

In recent years, the number of minority students has risen at the University of Oregon. Between 1990 and 1994, the percentage of student minorities has risen from 9 percent to 12 percent.

Ken Lehrman, University Affirmative Action and equal opportunity director, said some of the controversies in California stem from the fact that they had a more severe affirmative action policy than Oregon does.

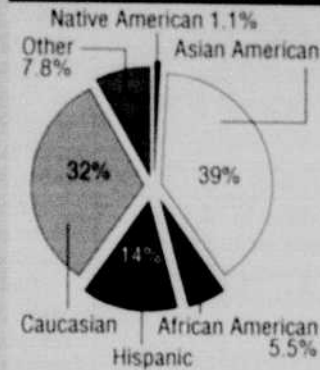
Lehrman said resentment for affirmative action swells in times of economic security because competition for jobs becomes tighter. When this happens, more people blame the fact that they didn't get a job on affirmative action.

"Things like that make it easy to make it a target," he said.

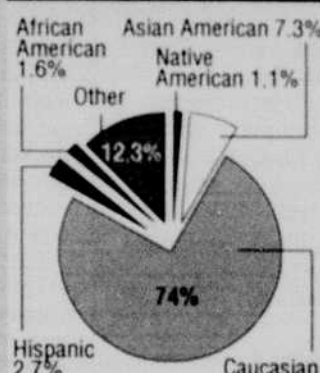
RACIAL MAKEUP

1994 Undergraduate figures:

University of California, Berkeley 21,138 Undergraduate Enrollment



University of Oregon 12,941 Undergraduate Enrollment



SOURCE: UO & UC
DENNIS BOLT/Emerald

Raleigh Lewis, affirmative action director for the office of the governor, said the state of Oregon has had the same affirmative action plan since 1975, which stresses equal opportunity rather than special preference.

"The state is staying the course," he said.

There has been a national trend to change affirmative action policies as well. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kansas, and Rep. Charles Canady, R-Florida, have introduced bills into the Senate and House of Representatives, which will essentially eliminate federal affirmative action plans, said Meryl Webster, recruitment and retention of people of color in higher education project coordinator for the United States Student Association.

"It's important to not just focus on California," Webster said, because anti-affirmative action policies are cropping up across the country.

"The Supreme Court is very, very conservative and not leading the charge [to save affirmative action policies]," she said.

According to information provided by the United States Student Association, 19 states considered bills or resolutions to limit or weaken affirmative action policies in their last legislative sessions.

ASUO programs want funding increase

■ FEES: Student leaders tell Programs Finance committee they need more money to run organizations

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Reporter

Student program leaders at a Programs Finance Committee forum Thursday night said they want programs to receive an increase in incidental fee money because they can't properly run their organizations.

The student forum was held to give students a chance to voice their opinions about how student fees are spent and also to help the committee decide whether to increase, decrease or maintain the current level of funding that goes to student programs.

Susan Anderson, the chairwoman of the Programs

Finance Committee, said the group will use student comments to decide how to approach program budgeting. "The way we're looking at it now is we're trying to set a goal as to how much money we're going to give out."

Currently, students pay \$123.50 each term in incidental fee money. Of this amount, 28 percent goes to ASUO student programs.

For the last two years, student groups have received zero-percent increases in their funding. Michael Talbot, OSPIRG's chairman, said this makes it hard for programs to exist. "A benchmark is really equivalent to a cut for student programs because our costs go up all the time."

Other speakers had similar remarks. Deidre Dittman of ESCAPE said her program is already having budgeting trouble. "It's been difficult with our budget to make ends meet

and it's only fall term."

Robin Seltover, a representative for the Amazon Coop Family Center, said because a new family center is being built, new funds are needed to properly care for the children that will use the center.

The majority of the speakers talked about budgeting levels of already-existing ASUO programs. Jennifer Davis, the ASUO programs coordinator, said the budgets of newly-forming groups also need to be kept in mind. "We need to make sure we're providing for groups that have already been established and we also need to provide for the futures of new groups."

Over the next month, the committee will decide to either increase, decrease or maintain program budgeting. They will then take their recommendations to the Student Senate who will make a final decision on the issue.

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