

# Major: Ramírez will act as director while search continues for a year

Continued from Page 1 with national acclaim.

Difficulty in attracting professors of that caliber to the University may have been one reason for the low turnout, Taylor said.

"This kind of position is being announced all over the country, and that makes it difficult because there are very few experts in the field," Ramírez said. "The budgetary problems we are having in Oregon and the funding in higher education may not work for us."

ASUO vice president Glen Banfield expressed concern that the committee didn't advertise

enough for the position.

Although last year's search included advertisements in an assortment of ethnic minority journals, the committee only put two ads in the leading scholarly journal *The Chronicle of Education*.

"We thought it was a wise decision at that moment, and I think back on it now, maybe not," Taylor said. The committee is considering running ads in *The Chronicle* from September through November for the next search.

The extended search was a disappointment for graduating students like Andrea Adams who

worked to help create the ethnic studies major.

"It sucks 'cause I've been sitting in meetings for a year now and looking at résumés," said Adams, a graduating senior and a representative on the search committee. "I feel like I'm never going to see the fruits of all of our labor."

Although Ramírez does not meet the scholarly requirements to be hired as the permanent director, her colleagues say they believe she is the best person to run the department while the search for a new director continues.

"[Ramírez] saved the program;

she came forward to direct the program when few other people were interested in it," Taylor said.

Taylor believes the extended search is a step in the right direction for ethnic studies.

"We've never had either the major or a permanent director before. I think it's well worth the wait to wait one more year to get someone that is very good," she said. "We've waited 23 years now, one more year of an interim director is not going to be a problem."

The history of the ethnic studies department has been a difficult one. In 1994, four of the eight eth-

nic studies faculty members left the University after more than half of the 1,000 total University faculty members voted against increasing the multicultural requirement for all students.

"[The faculty opposition to multicultural requirements] was extremely troubling — it sent a message to us that our scholarship was not valued and perhaps maybe we as colleagues were not valued," Taylor said of the experience. "A lot of us, myself included... walked away from ethnic studies at that point. We felt that ethnic studies had no future."

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