

Library will loan out laptops

A new program lets students borrow laptop computers for two hours at a time in the library

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

The Knight Library just put a new computer program online. The pilot program, which started at the beginning of spring term, loans out laptop computers.

Students, faculty and staff can borrow a Gateway 2000 Solo Notebook or a Macintosh PowerBook 5300c for two hours at a time.

"I think it's going to be a high-demand service," said Kathy Heerema, library program coordinator of the Information Technology Center. "I suspect that we're going to be looking in the future at expanding it."

The computers have multiple programs and can be connected to ethernet jacks. The library's computers on loan are specially protected from leaving the building. Many people already bring their laptops to the library, Heerema said.

"For people who don't own their own laptops, now they'll have the functionality to do the same thing," she said. "It will be interesting. We hope to be able to ask users what they use [the computers] for."

Many libraries around the country have used laptop loan programs, Heerema said. The Knight Library has always used more desktop workstations than mobile workstations in comparison with other libraries.

The Knight Library's new program is not the only one on campus that loans laptops. The University's College of Education runs a nine-student project called Academic Study Strategies Using Interactive Supportive Technology (Project ASSIST) for learning-disabled undergraduate students.

Project ASSIST encourages its students to take their computers to the library to take notes because they learn more by typing notes into the computer than they do by making photocopies.

"You get some of the standard advantages of having your notes in

electronic form," Horney said. "Many people can type faster than they can write; they can read what they've written."

The ITC also installed IP/TV Viewer on several computers. The program, which is also on some EMU Computing Center machines, allows students to access Internet broadcasts. Most broadcasts are produced specifically for the Internet, Heerema said.

"The potential here is that the instructor could know there is an Internet broadcast that could be effective supplemental material," she said.

If classes match broadcast times, professors can take their classes to the ITC to watch Internet broadcasts.

The broadcasts fall under three categories, Heerema said. IP/TV Viewer gets academic (lectures and seminars), entertainment (CNN) and experimental broadcasts. For example, NASA broadcasts all of its shuttle launches.

The quality of the broadcasts depends on the individual program and network traffic.

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Public absent from 'public' hearing

No one showed up for the University's public hearing to discuss proposed fee changes

By Amalie Young
Higher Education Reporter

The University opened the door for the campus community to question proposed changes to special fees.

For the second year in a row, no one showed up.

The University held a public hearing Thursday afternoon for anyone wanting to discuss fee amendments to its current administrative rule covering special fees, fines, penalties and service charges to be levied during the 1998-99 school year.

Some of the more than 500 proposed levies from more than 100

administrative and academic groups were new additions. Others had been increased, decreased or deleted.

"People expect increases," said Pamela Daener, co-director of the Office of Resource Management. Annual increases often reflect adjustments to meet inflation, she said.

One proposal will affect residents who remain in residence halls during winter break. If the amendments are approved, those residents would have to pay \$176 for the break, up \$91 from last year.

The increase was proposed to adjust for changes that have been made since the rate was last updated in 1991, said Kelly Matchett-Morris, associate director of residence life.

"It's kind of inevitable," he said. The fee will reflect a daily rate

without the added cost of food and is adjusted to meet the minimum cost of maintaining staff in the residence halls to ensure safety during the break, he said.

The University deals with two annual budgets. One is set by the Board of Higher Education, which deals with all major student fees — including tuition and housing — that apply to all public institutions in the state. The University president must approve a separate budget developed by each institution that includes all specific fees, fines, penalties and service charges.

Departments update their budgets in January, when they must account for all special fees.

The draft is published in the March 1 issue of the Bulletin for Oregon Administrative Rules and is circulated around campus.

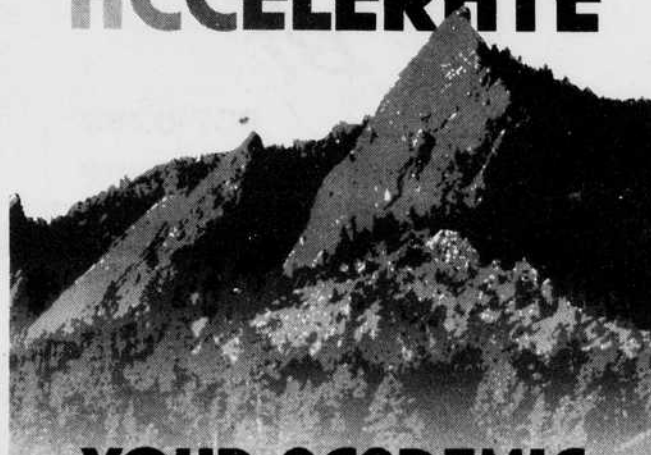


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