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rollment figures — it only has about 2,000 students. The old system allowed the school to share the gains of every public Oregon university.

Yet, Voves said, Eastern would receive extra state incentive money for its cooperative degree programs with other OUS schools. Eastern hosts Oregon State University agriculture programs and Oregon Health Sciences University nursing degrees, for example, she said.

For Eastern, the problem lies in keeping its small faculty-to-student ratio while trying to increase enrollment for the new system.

Back in the Willamette Valley, Oregon State is expecting some funding gains but isn't the biggest winner among OUS's larger institutions.

Like Portland State, the school is expecting its largest freshman class in years — about 600 more this year added to the 400 extra last year — building on its about 14,000 full-time students.

OUS figures predict about a \$12 million increase for Oregon State.

For the University of Oregon, the days of giving up 10 percent of its non-resident tuition to the state money pool could be finished. Last year, the University lost \$4.4 million in tuition money that it brought in because of the old funding system, said Frances Dyke, University resource management director.

Based on OUS figures, the University would receive almost \$69 million from the state in the new system as opposed to the \$49 million it received for the 1997-98 school year.

Taking into account a drop in nonresident enrollment, the University would gain almost \$18 mil-

**What they might gain**

Using last year's budgets and enrollments from two years ago, officials predicted how Oregon's schools may benefit in a new funding system

Eastern Oregon University	\$1,261,513
Oregon Institute of Technology	\$194,185
Oregon State University	\$12,578,616
Portland State University	\$16,346,726
Southern Oregon University	\$3,863,827
University of Oregon	\$17,787,061
Western Oregon University	\$2,783,015

SOURCE: Oregon University System's preliminary resource allocation model

Cara Strazzo/Emerald

lion, depending on the amount of future enrollment and money the Legislature approves, she said.

**Competition**

If each university needs students to boost its budget, wouldn't they all be competing for the same students? University officials don't think so.

"Every school fills a niche," Eastern's Voves said.

Students looking for a large urban campus like Portland State aren't usually interested in a small rural school like Eastern, she said.

"We do not compete in the same pool of students," she said.

Portland State's Pernsteiner said the Eastern, Southern and Western Oregon universities won't lose out in the competition because they provide a private liberal arts experience at a public school price.

"That's a product that has a lot of value to a lot of people," he said.

The thinking at OUS is that a little competition won't hurt.

"There will be some competition for some students, but I don't think that competition is unhealthy if in the end they've served the interest of students," said Nancy Goldschmidt, an OUS senior policy official.

**Problems**

Some analysts predict the new system will eventually leave Oregon's smaller public colleges behind.

If Portland State's funding increases while Eastern's funding is stable, funding inequalities will result over time, said Ed Dennis, Oregon Student Association executive director.

In addition, Dennis said, the administration and overhead costs at each university are not accounted for in the new model.

And now university officials await the Legislature's move.



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