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## Health Plan

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dependent policies.

Only 12 percent of the GTFs enroll spouses or dependents, which accounts for 80 percent of the cost of this plan. The ratio of single GTFs to those with dependents is unavailable.

Dropping coverage because there is a majority of single, healthy members, would result in a "death spiral" of the plan according to Mel Smith, an insurance expert hired by the GTF. This term means that "the higher the premium dependents have to pay, only the people that will benefit will enroll," said Carol Adamson, GTF benefits administrator.

Premiums will therefore continue to rise, resulting in the death of insurance coverage altogether. If this happens, the pool of GTFs would drastically shrink, Adamson said.

"Some of the most-qualified students wouldn't go here — they would be forced to drop out or be replaced" because they couldn't survive without health insurance, Pendleton said.

"This plan is cost effective," Prew said. "I think it's an investment really — in the recruitability of GTFs and the University [in general]. It's stable, sturdy and very usable."

The GTFF proved how much they value health-insurance benefits Friday by volunteering to sacrifice wages to get it.

The latest proposal was identical to the one in June, but with the inclusion of a suggested maximum one-percent yearly pay increase in order "to create additional funding," Pendleton said. "We are willing to sacrifice down the road."

The new proposal also shows how much the GTFF "empathizes with the financial constraint" of the University, said Yaju Dhar-marajah, GTFF vice president for University relations and part of the negotiation team.

However, medical coverage

*"[The University budget] is a scary situation. Optimism about Legislative contribution is drastically down."*

**Marian Friestad**  
Graduate school dean

will remain one of its two utmost concerns.

"I know of two things [the GTFs] will strike on: health insurance and tuition waivers," Dhar-marajah said.

If a strike did occur, nearly 30 percent of the University's classes, including labs and discussion sections, would not be taught, he said.

"I do believe that we should continue to maintain the same coverage the GTFs have had in the past," Friestad said.

It costs \$90.12 to cover a single GTF per month, according to the new rates. To comply with the term-plus-one-month-plan, the University would have to pay close to the equivalent of the family rate for everybody, Friestad said. This means \$526 per term during the regular school year and \$395 in the summer.

Friestad and Zunich did admit, however, that they "were surprised by the broadening of the scope to look at" in the new proposal.

To make matters worse, the University is currently in a \$7-million deficit.

"It's a scary situation," Friestad said. "Optimism about Legislative contribution is drastically down."

A solution was not achieved Friday, but both sides are committed to resolving the issue before fall term. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23.

## IntroDUCKtion

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wanted at least one fun class."

IntroDUCKtion, facilitated by the University Offices of Orientation, Academic Advising and Admissions is in its 26th year of making the transition into college a little easier for students, as well as for parents.

Orientation staff member Erica Munson said because some parents have a difficult time adjusting to their children leaving for college, an important element of the program focuses on talking to parents and easing their varied concerns.

"We get together with them, separate from the kids, and talk to them about letting go," Munson said. "We even recommend a book on the subject called 'Letting Go' and find that it's really helpful."

Having attended IntroDUCKtion herself as a freshman, Munson said an orientation like this gives new students an opportunity to make friends, set-up roommates for the residence halls and "get the inside scoop on what college life is all about."

Joe Wade, director of Academic Advising, said 380 students participated in this, the second session of IntroDUCKtion, and that a one-day program tailored specifically for transfer students will take place Wednesday.

Of the 3,100 new students admitted this fall, 1,573 of them are residents of Oregon.

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**Joe Wade**  
Director of Academic Advising

Wade said in-state enrollment is "creeping back up" during the last few years, in part because neighboring states have improved their own school systems, which keeps students in Washington or California from moving and paying higher out-of-state fees. But it is also due to the University improving access to higher education in Oregon.

"We've enhanced scholarship programs this year, and it really has enticed a lot of Oregon high school students to take a look at the school," Wade said.

The mean high school GPA of incoming freshman is 3.34, and 481 new students are in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes. The top five declared majors are, in order: undecided, pre-business, pre-journalism, pre-psychology and biology.



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