

College of Education considers changes

■ The proposals considered off-campus facilities and changing the names of majors

By Serena Markstrom
Oregon Daily Emerald

The College of Education will be hiring six new tenure-track professors and is proposing structural changes in upcoming months. Friday, Dean Martin Kaufman announced some of the proposed changes he and his colleagues have been working on, including finding new locations for classrooms and re-naming majors.

There are three areas that prompt change, Kaufman said. The first he calls a plan change, which occurs when something external affects the school, such as new legislation. The second is life-cycle organizational

change, which usually occurs when someone leaves or retires. The third is a crisis change, which is a change prompted by crisis.

The search for faculty has already been launched and committee members hope to have all six positions filled by this spring to begin work in fall 2000.

Students from the Ethnic Diversity Affairs Committee said they wanted to have representation on all of the hiring committees. They also are working on long- and short-term strategies for increasing the number of applicants of color.

Another challenge the college faces is finding more space for the expanding school. "We need new space," said Elaine Jones, assistant dean of management and operations. "There is no way to put sugar on this."

Kaufman pitched the idea of off-campus facilities, but the idea was unpopular with audience members who said it would disrupt the sense of community students seek in their educational environment.

Because space is limited, the options for expansion of physical space are scarce and the college will have to be flexible.

"What you gain on the teeter-totter, you lose on the swing," said Larry Irvin, dean of research and outreach services, quoting a Van Morrison song.

Currently the college has three special-education majors. Another proposed change is to have only one, cutting out redundant majors. They also propose changing the term for major to "area of concentration."

Most of the changes will be small or just a matter of giving

something a new name, Kaufman said.

The changes reflect the success the college has seen in recent years.

"The easiest time to become complacent is when you're successful," Kaufman told the audience of about 55 students and faculty members. He cited nine areas in which the college has been successful in the eight years since he took over as dean.

Among the successes was improved national standings. U.S. News and World Report ranked the college 11th best in the nation, with the special education department coming in sixth.

The college has also increased student enrollment and external grant and contract funding.

All ideas for improvement are tentative and the plans are "a work in progress," Kaufman said.



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Diversity

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team is still working on the issues,

and members of student groups are still looking for answers to how to make the campus more inviting to diverse students, faculty and staff.

Now the goal for student groups and Jay Breslow, who was recently hired as diversity coordinating intern, is to make these suggestions a reality. The main intention of Breslow, a senior psychology major, is to make sure the suggestions compiled by the summer interns, including plans for improved recruitment and retention and a University-wide Diversity Institution Plan, do not fall under the table. But some student groups and unions are afraid that just might be happening.

Many members of student groups and unions do not seem to know that meetings about diversity issues are open and student involvement is encouraged. Apparently a lack of communication has led numerous student groups to believe the diversity teams work

behind closed doors, not allowing for student groups' input.

MEChA Co-Director Sylvia Gil said the diversity interns never contacted MEChA, and there has been no communication about projects on which the interns were working. Gil said the work of the diversity interns should not be a secret, and members of student groups should be able to contribute. But she said she understands that the interns work on a difficult task and that communication in this case is not easy. "I would definitely like to have some input into some of the plans they have going on," said Gil, a senior majoring in political science.

ASUO Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Jason Mak said spreading the word about what the summer interns have accomplished has been difficult because the interns' positions ended at the end of the summer, making it hard to have continuity in the process and effective communication of the results with student groups.

Mak, a senior double-majoring in general science and ethnic studies, said he hopes that the recent hiring of Breslow as diversity intern coordinator will help take care of the communication problems that have caused frustration for some student groups.

"It is essential that we get the unions involved in these efforts, as well as others such as faculty and other administrators," Mak said.

Mak was one of the summer diversity interns and said only a few student groups and unions appear at the Diversity Steering Committee meetings. He also said that student groups and unions have not been formally informed about the interns' work because the summer intern positions expired at the end of the summer, although the interns strongly urged the administration to continue the positions.

"That left no one to make sure the work was carried through," Mak said.

Monica Malpezzi Price, a public relations officer for the International Students Association, said she feels frustrated about the ISA's lack of inclusion in the diversity team's efforts. She said her suggestion to include a representative from the ISA on the Administrative Team for Diversity initially received a positive response but was not followed through.

She said members of the ISA feel left out and do not seem to be considered diverse on this campus.

"We [the ISA] are not considered in this diversity dialogue," said Price, a junior anthropology major. "It was interesting for us to learn that diversity does not equal internationalism."

Executive Assistant President David Hubin, an ATD member, said the ISA is represented

through Jamila Singleton, the Multicultural Center programs coordinator who represents all student groups on the ATD.

Singleton, a junior majoring in planning, public policy and administration, said the MCC is an umbrella organization for many different multicultural student groups on campus, including the ISA, a representative of which sits on the board of the MCC. She said it is the ISA board representative's obligation to voice any concerns to make sure she can take these concerns to the ATD.

"Sitting on the board, it is each group's responsibility to express any concerns they might have on campus," Singleton said.

Hubin said the ATD has been working on achieving the suggestions from the summer diversity interns.

"We have taken the recommendations the summer interns worked on, refined those and moved those to implementation," Hubin said.

He said some goals have already been implemented while others, such as a Web site about diversity, are still in progress. A bias response team, which is designed to help students who feel they are discriminated against, is one of the recommendations that has already become a reality, Hubin said.

Lisa Foisy, ASUO Women's Center director, was the only representative of a group, union or program who said she has been in touch with the efforts of the diversity team. She said she occasionally attended meetings regarding the diversity issues, and the diversity interns have stopped by the office sporadically to exchange information.

Foisy said the Women's Center and students on campus will benefit from the bias response team. She said she hopes that the other recommendations the diversity interns made will be followed through and communication on campus will improve.

"We will benefit from broader collaboration," she said.

Russ Weller, a member of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Alliance, said the diversity interns came to some LGTBTA meetings, but so far there has been no communication about concrete ideas.

But Weller, a sophomore majoring in journalism, said he is confident that the diversity team is working on implementing ideas for change, including the creation of a hate-crime group. The group would serve as a resource to victims of hate crimes and help them deal with police, professors, the administration and other hurdles on the way to recovery.

"They're working on it," he said.




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