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## Rankings

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recognized for what the department is doing and believes the rankings can only help the department continue to attract quality faculty and students.

Martin Kaufman, dean of the College of Education, said of the results, "It's extraordinary."

Kaufman said the results reflect an exceptional faculty and student body, citing that the survey found the college to be the 17th most selective in admissions. He said that many of the other top schools are twice as large.

Within the College of Education, the Special Education and Community Resources program ranks third, behind only the University of Kansas and Vanderbilt University.

One way U.S. News & World Report re-evaluates graduate programs each year is by gathering information from academics, non-academics and professionals in the different fields to judge the

reputation of the schools.

The publication, however, gives more statistical weight to factors that measure educational excellence, such as standardized test scores, the rate of employment for students and funding.

Kaufman said \$19 million of the school's funding comes from external sources, such as research grants and private donations. The school receives only about \$5 million from the state, so the rankings help the school compete despite lower salaries, Kaufman said.

Melnick said the ranking is significant for the department of architecture because it shows that the University produces a competitive program with less money.

Both programs have made the list for the last four years with the College of Education falling four spots, down from 16th last year. Architecture was 15th last year and this year shares the same spot with Syracuse, Georgia Tech and the Rhode Island School of Design.

"It's great, a real honor," Melnick said.

## Evaluations

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Council, comprise a committee that will examine what options are available and devise a plan for action.

"To my understanding, the Undergraduate Council has been looking for a way to get this information across," Boyle said. "We're informing students in a different way. Since the Internet has become this big thing, it makes sense."

Since fall term, the ASUO has been working to provide course evaluations on Duck Hunt for students to view. That section of the plan is now being completed by the University computing center.

If everything goes as planned, students registering for fall term will be able to see how previous students rated the class and professor compared to other University classes.

While many courses already publish syllabi and professor information on-line, this proposal aims to expand and streamline the process to all University classes.

"We're trying to develop a plan that would bring all these tools together," Fitzpatrick said.

Although movement has been initiated, it will be a few years before the ball stops rolling.

"It's not something that is going to be done overnight," Fitzpatrick said.

Initial hopes are set on having a good plan, or at the very least a good

idea, in place by the middle of this term. However, the end result will probably not be seen for a few years.

"Nothing will probably be finalized by the end of the term," Boyle said. "It will be a few years before everything is up and running."

The council appeared receptive to the expanded plan, Fitzpatrick said, and Boyle added that its members seemed excited to finally have a plan in the works.

"This is a way to empower the students so they have more information," she said.

Empowering the students entails providing information from course descriptions to professor office hours, degrees and e-mail addresses.

Jocelyn Edel, a sophomore business major, expressed doubt that many students will actually utilize the program.

"I don't know how many people would actually take the time to look at that," she said. "Unless you don't really know what the class is about, then it could be helpful."

Boyle said that she hoped students would utilize the on-line services as supplemental information, while taking what they know as background information before going to meet the professor.

At this point in time, however, the committee is beginning to schedule meetings in order to feel out the options.

"Right now, it's basically trying to keep the open dialogue going," Fitzpatrick said.

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