

## DPS

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DPS and its representation on campus — is DPS an enforcement agency qualified to use the red and blue lights, or is it simply a campus security organization hired to keep the peace?

The answer depends on who is asked, and how they interpret the terms "police officer" or "peace officer."

"We're considered a criminal justice law enforcement agency," Public Safety Sergeant Marte Martinez said. "Oregon Revised Statute 352-285 authorizes [state university] employees as public safety, called

peace officers."

The State Board of Higher Education could commission college public safety officers to become "peace officers," Martinez said.

However, no DPS employees have received that designation and Fitzpatrick and law enforcement officials said that even commissioned DPS officers would not be classified as "peace officers."

"We are not trying to represent ourselves as police officers [and] we are not considered peace officers," he said.

Sources outside the department said that the DPS is strictly a campus security organization whose officers are not certified as peace officers.

Though the DPS wasn't notified of a violation when the vehicle lights were installed, the issue is not a new one for the department's staff.

"There have been some questions about the lights," Martinez said. "But nothing has come out of it."

While Eugene Police Department officers stated they are aware of the issue, they aren't likely to take action.

"We're not going to write them a ticket," EPD spokeswoman Jan Powers said. "I believe it's up to the University to resolve it and the state that mandates it to correct it."

DPS is using red and blue emergency lights in violation of the following Oregon codes and statutes, according to area law enforcement agencies:

### Oregon Driver Manual Code

— Red Lights: Red lights or flashing red lights that can be seen from the front are to be used only on fire department vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances, school buses, worker transportation buses, church buses, vehicles escorting funeral processions, tow vehicles and vehicles used by Oregon Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Division.

— Blue Lights: Blue lights are permitted only on police vehicles or fire department emergency response vehicles.

### Oregon Revised Statutes

-816.350 Prohibited Lights (4): Vehicles operated by a police officer and used for law enforcement may be equipped with any type of police lights, but only such vehicles may be equipped with blue lights.

## Enrollment

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challenging course work while maintaining a GPA of 3.6 or above, is one of those scholarships. In the case of JulieAnna Little, it did exactly what it is supposed to do — keep a smart high school graduate within the state.

Little, a freshman pre-journalism major from Sisters, said she had considered some universities in Southern California, but ultimately, the University's reputable School of Journalism and Communication, in addition to the proximity and affordability of the University, swayed her to apply.

"I wanted to be close to home and it's cheaper to go here," she said.

The University is not the only institution in the state that has seen more students across its campus. Enrollment is up at almost all Oregon University System institutions, including Oregon State University, where officials are expecting a stu-

dent body of about 17,000, the largest that school has seen in almost 20 years.

"This will be our fourth year in which our enrollment has gone up," said Andrew Hashimoto, OSU's vice provost for academic affairs. "We've put in a lot of effort in both recruiting and retention of students."

OSU's enrollment had plummeted to a 30-year-low of 13,784 just four years ago.

Hashimoto said he credits the rise in enrollment to improved orientation programs, recruiting and retention.

The increase in enrollment at institutions across the state came as no surprise to Oregon University System spokesman Bob Bruce.

"We had anticipated that there would be an increase in enrollment this fall," he said. "Most Oregon universities have been [making] good recruiting and retainment efforts."

He also said that one of the reasons universities in the state are enrolling more students is that more

high school graduates and their families are placing a greater value on higher education.

But while university officials across Oregon seem to welcome more students with excitement about the growth of their respective institutions, some are looking at the growth with skepticism and concerns about the quality of education.

While the number of students at the University has risen, the number of faculty members has remained virtually unchanged.

At OSU, additional classes were added to the original curriculum to accommodate the rising number of students, Hashimoto said. However, he said that the institution won't receive additional funds until next year.

"The funds follow the students," he said, adding that he's not convinced that the rise in enrollment comes at the cost of quality of education.

He said most faculty members are aware of the importance enrollment numbers play in university

funding and many restructure their lectures to accommodate more students in bigger classrooms.

Buch said he doesn't think that an increase in the number of students pursuing a higher education means the quality of education or the value of a degree has to suffer. He said a higher education has simply become more important in succeeding in today's workforce, and students are merely trying to set themselves up for success.

"I think the folks who are concerned about that should take a look at what labor-workforce demands are," he said. "I don't believe we are going to have a situation where we are going to have too many educated people."

Karen Sprague, vice provost for undergraduate affairs, said as long as the number of faculty members increases as student enrollment reaches new heights, the quality of a higher education does not necessarily have to degenerate.

Sprague said that while earning a degree continues to require students to work hard, she doesn't

think that the rising number of degrees awarded has to come at the cost of degrees losing their value.

"I don't think it matters how many people complete that work," she said. "But you can't just keep making classes bigger and bigger and bigger."

Jonna Lynn Mehrens, an undecided sophomore thinking about majoring in sociology, said bigger classes and an increase in the number of students do not concern her.

"I kind of like bigger classes," she said.

Mehrens said when the time to make a decision about where to go to college rolled around, she didn't have to think very hard when she sent her application to the University.

"It was the only place I applied," she said.

The Portland native said she had only heard good things about the University from her older sister and had always planned on pursuing a higher education at the University.

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Interviews will be held on the week of November 6th through the 10th with the winners being announced in the Oregon Daily Emerald on Friday the 17th of November. For any questions please do not hesitate to contact Scott Giffin, Director of Human Resources at 949-756-0800 or at [scottg@balboacapital.com](mailto:scottg@balboacapital.com) and feel free to visit our web site [www.balboacapital.com](http://www.balboacapital.com)



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