

University sets strong pace in acquiring federal grants

■ Campus research grants so far amount to 50 percent more than last year at this time

By Eric Martin
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's cutting-edge researchers in education and the biological sciences have helped net the school \$43 million in federal grants and contracts so far this year, \$14 million ahead of where research coffers were during the same period of the last fiscal year, July 2000 to December 2000.

The number of federal grants secured also rose from 283 in fiscal year 2000-01 to 319 in the same period this year.

Richard Linton, vice president for research and graduate studies, said the school should be extremely proud of the gains but must realize they could be offset if the Oregon University System cuts its research funding to cover a looming budget shortfall.

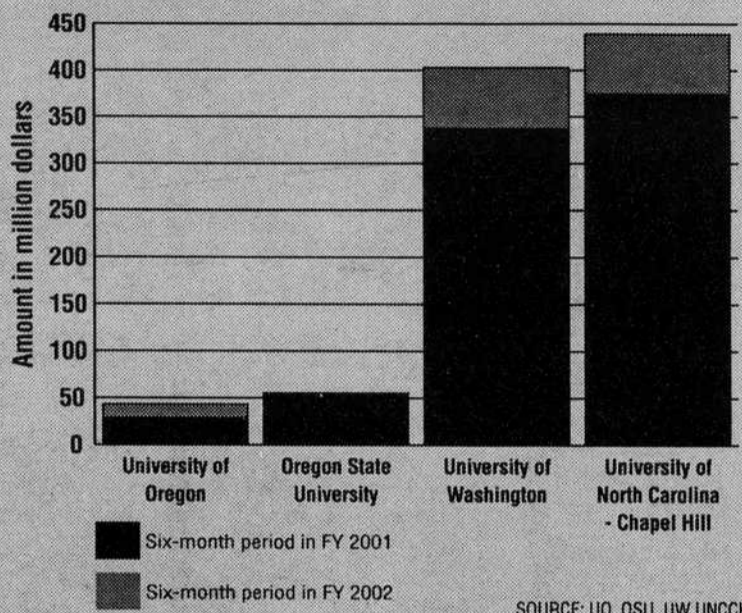
"We attract external dollars with the OUS appropriation," Linton said. "If state investment backs away, we'll have trouble sustaining this rate of progress."

The rate of progress — and the number of researchers working to sustain it — is meager when compared with comparable institutions, such as the University of Washington or the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. OUS identified these and six other schools as comparable to the University because of a shared educational mission.

The University of Washington, for example, attracted an additional \$65 million in grants and contracts during the first six months of the most recent fiscal year. But Alvin Kwirma, vice provost for research at the school, said the school has many grant-seeking departments that the University of Oregon lacks, such as a medical school and a pub-

Research grants

The University has collected more grant funds in the first six-months of fiscal year 2002 than in the same period one year ago, but comparable colleges collect much more.



lic health school. Kwirma said the public health school alone typically yields \$50 million each year, or \$7 million more than the University of Oregon has secured so far this year. He said UW also has 15,000 more students than the University.

"We are a larger and much more broadly based institution," he said. "The UO has a much more isolated but excellent group of players in the research arena."

One of those players is associate economics professor Bill Harbaugh, who has landed a score of grants in the last decade. The most recent was a \$340,000, 3-year grant awarded by the National Science Foundation in 2001 for Harbaugh's research into bargaining behavior among elementary and junior high school students.

He said competition for grants is intense and to secure one a proposal "must be interesting to those who

review the grant requests. If it's a request from the NSF, for example, it must contribute to the social good. This can be tenuous, though."

The University also relies on larger contributions from federal sources than comparable schools, on average. The government affairs office here lobbied U.S. senators and representatives from Oregon for \$1.8 million of the president's budget last fiscal year.

"In the state of Oregon, research in universities for all intents and purposes is barely funded," federal affairs director Betsy Boyd said. "For us to be able to get large pieces of equipment ... we need to look for other ways to finance them. Earmarks enable us to get funds we couldn't get through the competitive or state route."

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BB gun may trigger judicial hearing

■ Sung-min Kim, who loaded an air pistol in his residence hall, is prepared to accept the University's disciplinary action

By Brook Reinhard
Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of University Housing and the administration won't say how they will handle the case of Sung-min Kim, who loaded an air pistol in his third floor Robbins Hall room Friday and prompted an immediate response by the Eugene Police Department.

Kim, a pre-journalism major, said the issue has been blown out of proportion. One of Kim's friends bought the air pistol at the Gateway Mall, and he said the gun was only in his room for several hours. Kim said several BBs fell out of the pistol's clip, and he reloaded in plain sight of the students outside his room window, prompting a student to alert the Department of Public Safety about a gun on campus.

"I seriously didn't think it was going to cause this much trouble," Kim said. Most students know "that this whole thing was basically bullshit."

EPD spokeswoman Mandy

Hansen said the police department will not press charges against Kim, because he never pointed the gun at anyone.

"He never committed a crime — it wasn't like he waved the gun in a menacing manner," Hansen said.

Freshman Tyler Stuhling, who lives in nearby Spiller Hall, said most students had no idea what happened on Friday.

"It's a little unsettling that someone had a BB gun here," Stuhling said. "But I don't have any fear of getting blasted or shot."

Director of Residence Life Sandy Schoonover said residence hall policy prohibits students from keeping weapons of any sort in their room.

"The report said that this BB gun looked an awful lot like a 9 mm," Schoonover said. "There's not room for BB guns or any sort of guns in our system."

Because Kim posed no immediate threat to those around him, the University can discipline him only through a formal judicial board hearing. Director of Student Judicial Affairs Chris Loschiavo said he's only seen four cases brought before the board in his three-year tenure at the University, and this case is not the

most serious he's seen.

Loschiavo added that if the University decided to hold a formal judicial hearing on the case, the student would be given a 10-day advance notice. The board could evict Kim from University Housing, or even expel him from school.

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Anne Leavitt said the board will weigh arguments from both sides if it rules on the case.

"I want to balance what the institution needs for safety and the opportunity for this individual to learn from his mistake," she said.

Kim said he realizes the University may take further action against him, and he's prepared to face whatever charges are leveled against him.

"I'm willing to face the consequence," Kim said. "It was my fault. I was playing with the gun toy."

Brett Fritz, a freshman who lives on the same floor, said he hopes the University doesn't pursue serious action against Kim.

"There's nothing wrong with what he did," Fritz said. "He's a good guy."

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