

NEWS

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University offers tuition break on 49 courses

Students taking classes after 3 p.m. may be eligible for the discounted class rate, which could save them 15 percent

By Jenni Schultz
 Oregon Daily Emerald

This fall, the University is implementing a program that gives a 15 percent tuition discount for some classes with 3 p.m. or later start times. Various departments are offering a total of 49 courses in 22 subjects at the discounted rate, which was determined based on "creating interest for the classes without losing money," Vice President for Academic Affairs Lorraine Davis said.

The Oregon University System set a 3 percent cap on tuition in-

creases for all of Oregon's public colleges this year, but University students who take 16 credits or more without any discounted credits will actually pay as much as 15 percent higher tuition.

However, students taking 16 credits or fewer with four or more of those credits at the discounted rate will receive as much as a 10 percent tuition decrease over this past year's rates.

The OUS approved the five-year pilot program because it will keep the total tuition increase for the entire University at an average of 3 percent.

With the program, administrators hope to combat the high enrollment projection for next year. Enrollment is projected to be at

20,300, which is 300 more students than the maximum the University was designed to hold.

With this strain on resources, administrators are hoping to find a way to alleviate the problem without putting all of the pressure on students. Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Jim Buch said the discount was designed "to provide students with a lower cost tuition alternative and increase the amount of classroom space available."

University Senate President Greg McLaughlan believes the plan is a good short-term approach. "Given that our resources are stretched to the maximum, and student tuition dollars are also stretched, it is a good approach for

the near term," he said.

Looking further into the future, McLaughlan pointed to new construction, such as the Lillis Business Complex, previously Gilbert Hall.

Gilbert Hall was built to hold 942 students, and the new complex will house more than 2,500 students and 130 faculty and staff.

Currently, 65 percent of the slots for the University classes that provide the 15 percent discount are filled. Between now and when fall term starts, 4,800 additional students are expected to register for fall classes, Buch said.

Administrators determined which classes would be offered at the discounted rate by whether they would be guaranteed to have at least 60 students enrolled in

those particular classes. Currently, the average capacity of the discounted courses is 113 students and the average enrollment stands at 72.5, but Buch said he is confident that a number of these courses are going to fill.

Davis also anticipates that there will be a high demand for these courses but said most students who wish to should be able to enroll.

Buch said that this is the first year of the program, and the success or failure of it won't be apparent until the end of this year.

"It's an experiment. The University has not found any other institution that is using a similar program," he said.

Contact the managing editor at jennischultz@dailyemerald.com

Official hears UO's child care center proposal

Virginia Gustafson presides over the City Hall hearing, reviewing the University's permit applications and listening to concerned neighbors

By Jillian Daley
 Oregon Daily Emerald

A group of neighbors from the Fairmount area spoke for and against the University's proposed East Campus Children's Center on Wednesday at a City Hall hearing. Approximately 12 citizens spoke against the proposed site, and three spoke in favor of it.

City official Virginia Gustafson presided at the hearing, reviewing the University's conditional use and site review permit applications for the child care site. The site is located on East 17th Avenue and Moss Street, west of Villard Street and east of Columbia Street.

Gustafson did not intend to reach a decision at the hearing. It was a chance for the University to present its application for review, and for neighbors or concerned citizens to air grievances, express disapproval or support for the proposed building and its location.

The site review permit has not been as greatly contested, but in order for the conditional use permit to be approved, the building must meet specific criteria. These criteria include a requirement stating that the building must be compatible with the surrounding area and maintain consistency with adopted neighborhood plan policy, Associate City Planner Kent Kullby told the Emerald on July 9.

Debate centered around the possible traffic congestion that the new building will create and the size and institutional style blue prints of the proposed facility.

"I'm not against a child care center," Fairmount resident Jeff Nelson said. "I'm here because I'm concerned about some land use issues." Nelson was one of the dozen residents who spoke against the proposed site.

Members of the University team presented their case with maps of the area indicating how the land would be used, including high-level traffic zones. University planners aimed to make the building blend in with the neighborhood by restricting it to one story between 13 and 24 feet high, which is smaller than a two-story residential building, Director of Student Activities

Gregg Lobisser said.

Traffic would be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., making the "coming and going time" of staff and parents dropping off their children unobtrusive for the neighbors, Lobisser said.

Some neighbors are in favor of the building and spoke up at the hearing.

"The University is an ever-growing institution," resident Ellen Maddex said. "I am in the neighborhood, and I am for it."

However, some residents think that the University has not given the neighbors enough say.

"We're hoping (the University) will eventually sit down and say, 'We wanted to build here, but it looks like it's not going to happen. Let's sit down and talk about this with the neighbors,'" Fairmount Neighborhood Association member and former president Jeff Osanka said.

According to city code, a written decision must be made within 15 days after a public comment session has occurred. The decision can be appealed within 10 days after it is issued.

Contact the reporter at jillandaley@dailyemerald.com.

Sports brief

Oregon players 'Luke' pretty good

The Ducks have themselves a pair of PTP'ers, baby. For those who aren't familiar with the terminology of college hoops guru Dick Vitale, that means the Oregon men's basketball team has two very good players.

In fact, Vitale named junior point guard Luke Ridnour and junior small forward Luke Jackson in the same breath as the best collegiate "prime time players" in the nation Monday by placing the duo on his Fifth Team.

Vitale, known best for his outrageous commentary, is compiling a list of the "super six teams" in the nation — teams that are compiled of players whom he believes to be the most talented and gifted. Each team has five players, meaning Vitale considers Oregon's Ridnour and Jackson to be among the top 25 players in the country.

Ridnour averaged 15.5 points and 5 assists per game this past season while shooting better than 44 percent from behind the arc. Ridnour — who has started 63 consecutive games at Oregon — received the Associated Press All-America honorable mention and All-Pacific-10 Conference First Team status in 2002 and was also the 2001 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year.

Jackson, a Creswell native, received honorable mention status this past season in the Pac-10 while averaging 16.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game.

— Brad Schmidt

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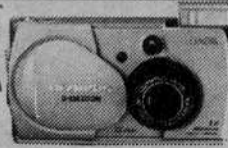
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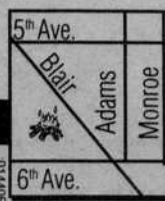
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