

Diversity

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important to create an environment in which people have these opportunities. Continued advancements toward these ideals are crucial considerations for diversity enhancement efforts."

In fall 2002, total OUS enrollment reached 78,111 students, an increase of 13,980 from fall 1997. There are now 332 more African American or black students, 73 more American Indian or Alaska native students, 1,133 more Asian or Pacific American students and 628 more Hispanic or Latino students.

But the numbers, which include multiracial students in a slightly separate category, fail to show a simple truth: Not one minority group has increased as much as 1 percent of the total group of 78,111 OUS students.

Those hundreds of African American or black students only represent a .2 increase in the total 78,111 student population, while the extra 73 American Indian or Alaska native students have resulted in a net decrease of .1 percent for the group compared to the whole student population. The 1,133 additional Asian or Pacific American students have added .4 percent to the group and the 628 more Hispanic or Latino students have only increased the group by .3 percent.

Webber-Davis said American Indian or Alaska native enrollment is not increasing as much as other minorities for several reasons.

"High school dropout rates and choosing options other than university attendance are persistent concerns for this population," she said.

The white population, in the meantime, has increased by 10,193 students, and still represents 73.6 percent of the total 78,111 students, only .1 percent less than five years ago.

University President Dave Frohnmayer said patience is needed because reaching diversity is a process that takes time. "At least we have had progress in the right direction," Frohnmayer said. "We will look very different in 10 years than we do now."

Frohnmayer said he is glad that any progress toward diversity has been made at a time when the economy is sliding in the opposite direction.

While only Portland State had a higher percentage of minority students than the University in 2002, four schools had a higher percentage of American Indian or Alaska native students, and every other school had a higher percentage of Hispanic or Latino students.

"We're doing a lot," Frohnmayer said, adding the numbers seem lopsided because the University records students of multiple ethnicities in "other" categories, while different universities place them in a single ethnic category. "We do far better in serving

students in multicultural backgrounds than the survey shows," he said.

Frohnmayer's claim is partially supported by the numbers. While the total percentage of unspecified students, students identifying as more than one ethnicity or as international students at the University represented 15.8 percent of the school's total population, the figure is a few points higher than the OUS average of 11.5 percent. However, there is no way to really know where that extra percentage breaks down.

With regard to full-time faculty diversity, the academically top-tier University is just average.

The University ranked fourth out of seven schools in representation of African American or black and Asian or Pacific American faculty, and sixth in representation of American Indian or Alaska native faculty. However, the University was first in representation of Hispanic or Latinos, and only one school — Oregon State University — outranked the University of Oregon in overall faculty diversity.

ASUO Multicultural Advocate and APASU co-Director Mark Padoongpatt said the University is not diverse, and the report is not an accurate representation of diversity at the school.

"I would question the methods used in counting students of color," he said, adding that he does not believe the issue is important to University administration. "I don't think they treat it as a high priority."

Padoongpatt said while students of color are overrepresented in University sports, they are underrepresented in classes.

"There's no money involved in recruiting students of color in academics," he said. "They can fly to New York to recruit a player ... but they won't even go into north California to recruit a student."

Padoongpatt's claim is somewhat supported by Emerald research, as well. In the article "Given a sporting chance," published in February, research revealed that more than 35 percent of African American or black male undergraduates attending the University were lured by athletic scholarships, the second-highest percentage of any ethnic group receiving such support at a Pacific-10 Conference school in 2002-03.

"The concept of diversity from the OUS perspective does not focus solely on issues of quantity," she said. "Consistent and ongoing efforts are needed ... to the mission of public universities."

But Padoongpatt said there is a more definite solution.

"More money is going to have to be put in scholarships, and more money is going to have to be put into recruitment," he said.

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plies, cleaning and payroll.

The Non-Traditional Student Union received fund transfers of \$512 for the Non-Traditional Student Union Graduation, a catered reception for non-traditional students and their families.

Also, the senate approved a fund transfer for campus radio station KWVA for the promotion and support of two upcoming events, including the KWVA Prom, a year-end appreciation party for KWVA staff and others in the EMU Ballroom on Friday.

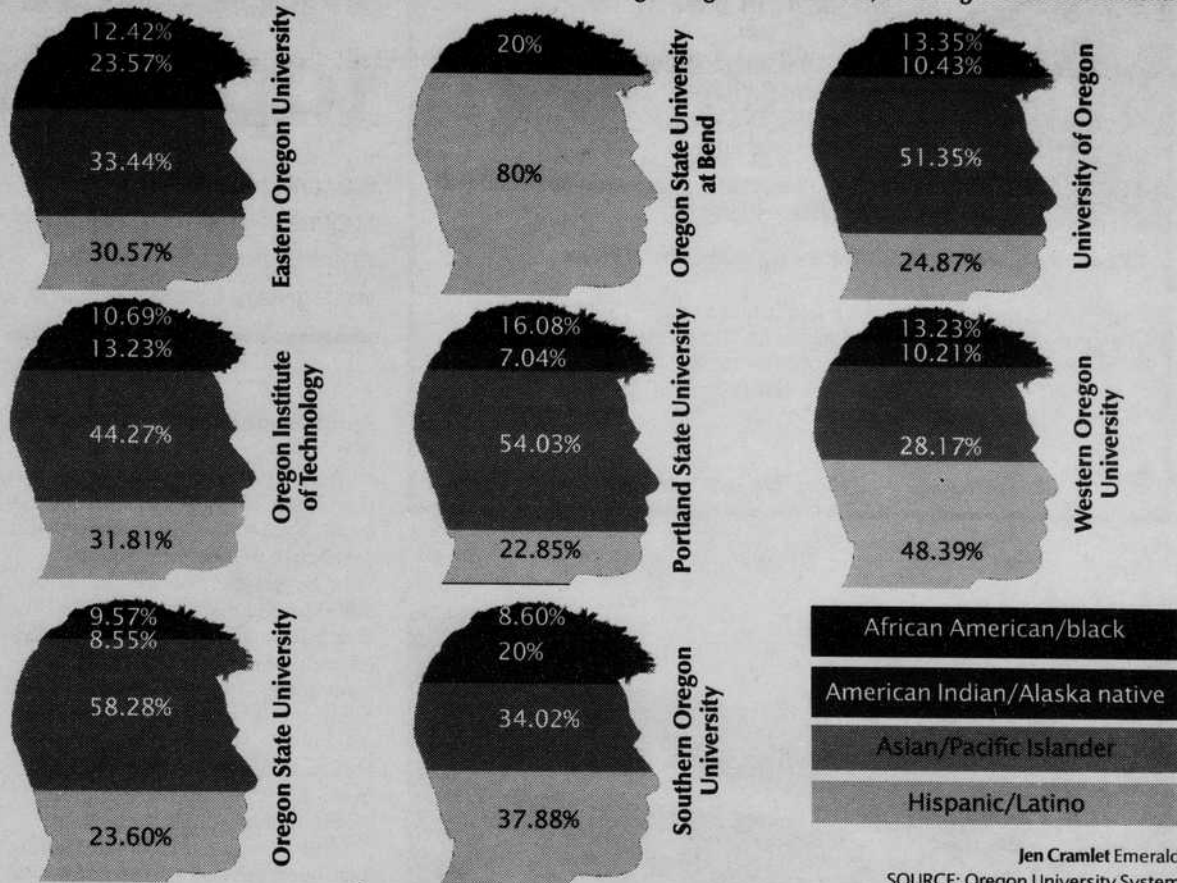
Eric Bailey, the senate's 2002-03 academic chair, also proposed a realignment of the new senate. He stated that it was important to bring in new representation for schools that have not been included.

"We haven't had the School of Education or the School of Music ever represented in senate," Bailey said. "It is just horrible that we have two major schools on campus that have never had representation in the senate."

The senate will address the realignment issue again during fall term.

— Kara Hansen

Percentage of minority population who selected one of the four single categories as their race, excluding international students



News brief

Ravassipour, Clark take control of senate for summer session

The 2003-04 ASUO Student Senate moved into full swing with the appointment of the summer session vice president and president and the approvals of numerous special requests.

Sophomore Mena Ravassipour will be president and sophomore Aryn Clark will be vice president for the summer session, which meets periodically throughout the next few months.

"Since there's a lot of new senators, my main goal would be to make this a learning process for all of us," Clark said. "Also, I hope that everyone can get to know each other better."

The senate approved a special request for fund transfers of \$360 to the Black Student Union for the 2003 BSU Graduation.

The senate also approved the transfer of \$5,257 in funds for the ASUO Women's Center toward sup-

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