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Campus maintenance costs total \$123 million to date

Facilities Services has a large backlog of repairs for designated buildings

BY JOE BAILEY
NEWS REPORTER

When required repairs and maintenance work on University buildings get passed over each year, they don't just disappear.

They simply back up.

Every year, \$9 million to \$12 million of necessary building maintenance sits undone on the University campus, according to Facilities Services estimates. Currently, the University has a backlog of \$123 million in repairs and maintenance that should have been done.

The \$123 million figure only includes buildings classified as campus proper. The EMU, Athletics Department facilities, University Housing and the Student Recreation Center are not included in that number.

Facilities Services, the department that takes care of campus buildings and grounds, receives about \$5 million each year from the University general fund.

"Our priorities are on a daily basis," said Ron Bloom, operations manager for Facilities Services. "We're constantly doing maintenance with the money we're allocated. We eat up that money just trying to maintain the steam leaks, the condensation leaks, roof structures,



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Several buildings on campus are in need of maintenance, such as Straub Hall. However, Facilities Services does not have a budget large enough to keep up with the aging buildings.

gutters, just anything involved with the buildings."

The \$5 million pays for staff and the costs of repairs for about five million square feet of building space.

"That's a buck a year for each square foot of maintenance," Bloom said.

An additional source of revenue for repairs comes from the Oregon University System. The OUS receives money from the Oregon State Legislature every two years and then redirects that money to its seven member schools, including the University.

That money goes into a capital repair budget that is spent on larger projects.

These funds have not been enough to keep campus facilities in shape, Bloom said.

Even if \$123 million was spent to complete all the repairs that have accumulated over the years, it would not upgrade the University's facilities.

"That's just to bring the backlog maintenance up to the status quo," Bloom said.

University Capital Construction Manager Darin Dehle, who oversees

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