

Lean times

Oakland University considers dropping 10 programs

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Oakland University students majoring in journalism and performing arts can rest assured their programs will be around long enough for them to earn their degrees.

OU officials promise those majors won't be dropped in mid-stream, but admit they'll most likely be phased out completely within the next few years.

"We'll begin phasing out certain programs next year," said George Feeman, OU's acting associate provost. "Students currently in programs will be taken care of, but admission of new students will be suspended."

FEEMAN HEADED a group of faculty called Committee on Academic Mission and Priorities (CAMP), which spent several months studying college courses and determining where cuts could be made.

Because of state budget cuts, OU could lose up to \$4.6 million in aid next year. Fewer dollars, coupled with a forecasted enrollment decline, forced the university to trim programs.

CAMP's report was presented to President Joseph Champagne in March and is scheduled for debate in the University Senate later this month. Champagne isn't expected to act on the recommendation until after the Senate debate.

Of 52 programs which were assessed, CAMP recommended that eight receive increased resources, and 19 stay at current levels.

But CAMP proposed that 12 be reduced, 10 be phased out, and three center administrations be eliminated and administrators duties merged into other departments.

About 750 students are enrolled in the 10 programs recommended for phasing out.

FEEMAN SAID CAMP determined which programs should be eliminated by studying OU's resources. If OU can't offer "high quality" degree

programs, it would rather not offer them at all, he said.

Degree programs in secondary education, journalism, performing arts, philosophy and area studies are some popular programs recommended for elimination. However, students still will be able to take courses in the those subjects.

"We want OU to be known as a high quality institution that provides a strong liberal arts foundation for all of its programs, particularly professional programs," Feeman said.

Using the dance program phase-out as an example of being unable to afford a top-notch degree curriculum, he explained, "In order to have a high quality dance program, it is required that we recruit nationally."

"That requires a great deal of money which we don't have. Since we can't make a commitment to have a high quality dance degree program, we'd rather not offer one."

JAQUETTA HOUSTON, news editor of the weekly college paper, The Sail, finds fear of the unknown on the Rochester campus.

"Overall, the initial reaction of the students is 'upset.' They didn't know the meaning of the CAMP report, which we've tried to explain," she said. "The students feel we're in a financial crisis, and a lot of the cuts are too drastic... some programs are gaining money."

Feeman admitted several degree programs' budgets would be beefed up. The schools of engineering, economics and management expect increased resources for undergraduate courses.

"It is clear that our students who come here have moved toward career options in professional programs," Feeman said of the technical fields.

The Sail is not mentioned for phasing out, despite the recommendation to drop the journalism program.

ACCORDING TO David Beardslee, director of instructional research, 55 percent of the men and 20 percent of the women who enroll in OU from

high school head for such technical programs as engineering and computer science. About 20 percent of both sexes major in economics or management.

"Two years ago, only one-third of the freshmen majored in engineering or computer science. Next year it will be up to one-half," Beardslee added. "We've seen a marked loss of interest in humanities, history and social science, because those fields are currently perceived as those that don't lead to employability."

OVERALL ENROLLMENT has stayed steady during the past few years, reported Jim Llewellyn, OU's public relations director.

In fall 1980, 12,006 students were enrolled at OU compared to 11,644 in fall 1981.

"Last year was the first time in the history of OU we built the budget and didn't base it on dollars coming in from student tuition. With the declining population of the high school pool, we see it's harder to get traditional students. Increases have come from the older students," Llewellyn said.

Tuition per credit hour is \$36 for freshmen and sophomores, \$40 for juniors and seniors and \$60 for graduates.

Llewellyn added that Oakland University is not alone in its financial troubles and course elimination.

He read a news release from Western Michigan University and said, "They're talking about cutting a lot more than we are. Everyone is cutting back these days."

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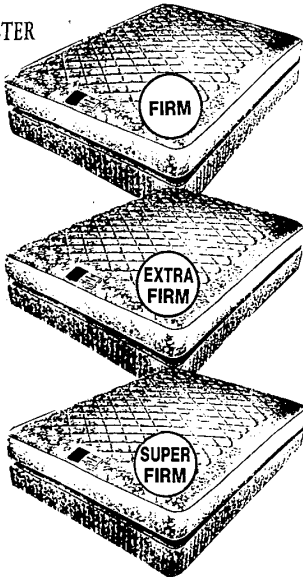
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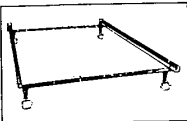
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SHIRLEY ALEXANDER, et al., vs. Defendants
Plaintiffs, vs. Estate of Shirley A. Alexander, et al., Defendants.
No. Sec 8 & Brca (F11015)

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION

TO: EACH PERSON WHO OWNED A MULTIPLE DWELLING OF MORE THAN FOUR UNITS IN THE CITY OF DETROIT DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 26, 1969, THROUGH APRIL 1, 1971, AND TO THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST.

Pursuant to an order of the court in the above-entitled action, you are hereby notified that the above-entitled action was commenced in this court on July 10, 1969, and that Shirley Alexander and others have been named as plaintiffs who bring the suit on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated who were owners of multiple dwellings of more than four units in the City of Detroit during the period of June 26, 1969 through April 1, 1971. The above-entitled action has resulted in a judgment declaring City of Detroit Ordinance 442-C, which imposed a refuse collection charge upon the owners of such multiple dwellings, unconstitutional. The court has further ordered reimbursement of all monies paid as a result of the ordinance to the members of the class.

You are further notified:
(1) That this court will include you in the class of owners represented by the plaintiffs in the above-entitled action if (a) you previously have been paid your share of the judgment fund; (b) you previously have presented a claim to the court or the guardian ad litem; (c) you present a claim by letter to this court postmarked on or before April 30, 1982.
(2) That persons otherwise entitled to reimbursement from the judgment fund who have not requested inclusion in the class by April 30, 1982, will not be bound by the judgment and will be entitled to participate in any reimbursement made from the judgment fund pursuant to the judgment.
(3) That if you do not request inclusion, you may, if you desire, enter an appearance in the above-entitled action through your counsel.
Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the guardian ad litem for the class of plaintiffs, Theodore Scott, 34th Floor, 100 Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI 48243.
March 5, 1982 Hon. Susan D. Berman Circuit Judge

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