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Open registration termed success at University of Montana

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OPEN REGISTRATION TERMED SUCCESS AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA--

Open registration for fall quarter at the University of Montana was such a success the University plans to stay with the new system, according to Earl C. Lory, academic vice president.

As a result of open registration, the University found it necessary to open three night laboratory sections. The sections, two in Geology 101 and one in Zoology 111, were immediately filled. Two of the sections will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the third will meet from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. "Much to our surprise, the night laboratories seem to be popular among students," Dr. Lory said.

A few classes had to be shifted to different rooms because some course enrollments were smaller or larger than anticipated.

Under open registration courses are held open as long as students want to enroll in them. Exceptions are caused by lack of adequate and specialized facilities. Courses not repeated during the school year will be held open for all students desiring them. In previous years the decision to close courses was made by department chairmen, consequently some students had problems in scheduling courses. Also in past years some students would register for an overload of credits and drop courses after classes began, causing courses to close prematurely.

Open registration greatly minimized the number of student problems, Dr. Lory said. Registration still involves some standing in line. He cited payment of auto registration fees and final billing fees as two examples of problem areas. Plans are now being made to minimize the lines in these areas, according to Dr. Lory.

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"These problems should not occur a year from now. We will try to help them with planning," Dr. Lory stated.

He stressed that it was the excellent cooperation of the faculty, deans, department chairmen, staff members and students that made open registration a success.

A form was available at the field house during registration for students and faculty to report any difficulties encountered during registration. These forms will be studied by the ad hoc committee to help in future planning for registration, according to Leo Smith, registrar.

Discussion of changing to open registration at UM began when the faculty Budget and Policy Committee recommended to the late Laurence C. Gale, former UM academic vice president, that the University consider open registration. An ad hoc committee with Dr. Gale as chairman was formed. This committee also recommended UM initiate open registration. After administrative approval it was planned for this fall quarter.

The ad hoc committee was pleased with the success of registration and from the results of this quarter UM will stay with the open registration system, said Dr. Lory, who is the current chairman of the ad hoc committee.