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Thursday, May 10, 1990

# Library System hopes

By Marian Raab  
Herald City/County News Editor

UW-Madison library officials are confident a 10-position staff cut for the 1990-91 academic year will not affect library service.

According to Kaye Gapen, general library system dean, the elimination of 10 positions in the upcoming year combined with 10 positions that have already been eliminated, will save the library system \$395,000.

"It will balance the budget," Gapen said.

A \$14.9 million budget is under proposal for the 1990-91 academic year.

The library system had a \$800,000 projected deficit for the 1989-90

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# ASL may satisfy credits

By Toné Stockenström  
Herald Staff Writer

The faculty of therapeutic sciences will be meeting today to discuss the possibility of reinstating American Sign Language in the School of Education.

Last month, the School of Education decided to discontinue Manual Communication for Health Providers 410, a course which has been offered for ten years, according to Bambi Riehl, lecturer for the course.

"The university was not aware of the consequences by cutting this class; it was a complete outrage in the deaf community throughout Wisconsin," said Bobbi Cordano, a UW-Madison law student who is also legally deaf.

The university needs to find a permanent place where ASL should be taught, according to Trey Duffy, director of the McBurney Resource Center.

"Right now we want a vote to continue the class in the School of Education until a permanent place can be found in the School of Letters and Science," he said.

The ASL course has been only offered in the School of Education since this semester and the department did not wait long enough before deciding to eliminate the course, said Cordano.

"We couldn't budget this course in for next fall, but the issue certainly hasn't been dropped; we are in the process of finding a home for the course currently," said Jane Ayer, associate dean of the School of Education.

The course was terminated from the School of Education because only one-third of the people in the class are in the education department; therefore the one-credit elective course wasn't important to education students, Ayer explained.

"We want, as a showing of good will on behalf of the university, the reinstatement of the ASL course. We are willing to work with the university," said Cordano.

This decision will clearly send a message to the deaf community, said Cordano.

Currently a proposal in the Co...

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of Letters and Science is asking for the university to recognize ASL as a foreign language credit, so if a student has taken ASL in high school or at another university, it will be recognized as a foreign language credit, said Duffy.

As of January, 1991, the UW-Madison will require incoming freshmen to have three years of foreign language as an entrance requirement, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

"We want to make sure that this university recognizes ASL as a foreign language credit because they deserve credit," said Duffy.

According to Duffy, it is an evolutionary process. ASL has only been studied for a few decades, it takes time for people to realize that ASL has its own structure, aesthetics and culture.

Duffy said, "We want the univer-

sity to recognize this."

Ayer proposed that the course be switched into the department of communicative disorders or nursing, but according to Cordano, the deaf community feels this would be an outrage because these departments treat ASL as a pathological disorder and not as a culturally and ethnically based language.

"The faculty of therapeutic sciences should decide, I don't decide what the faculty teaches," said Dean John Palmer of the School of Education.

Representatives of the deaf community will be speaking at the meeting and will be urging reinstatement of the ASL course until a permanent place can be found in the College of Letters and Science, said Cordano.

Sign language is taught in more than 750 post-secondary programs across the United States, according to Cordano. "What happened to the plan for diversity?" she said.

