

Bring together...

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Enrollment at one time may be between 1,400 and 2,000 students.

Although methods of funding the three free universities differ, all the coordinators termed their funding systems successful.

The University for Man at KSU operates under the student government and receives most of its \$18,000 yearly budget from student fees. Contributions from a state continuing education fund and the United Way provide the rest.

Students pay no registration fees for free university courses, but sometimes must buy materials, depending upon the course, Maes said.

The eight University for Man staff members receive part-time salaries, she added.

Established in 1967, the University for Man is a non-profit corporation with five volunteers from the community serving as its board of directors.

Denver Free University, also a non-profit corporation, is operated by a board of directors and three staff members. The staff receives "minimal salaries," Smart said.

Started as a Denver University (DU) club in 1969, the free university broke from the university after one month.

"DU refused to give us any funds unless we limited class enrollment to DU students. That goes against the whole idea of a free university," Smart said.

The Denver Free University budget varies each quarter, depending entirely on registration fees collected from students. Students pay \$5 for every course taken.

"Sometimes we're living from hand to mouth and aren't even certain we'll be able to pay salaries," Smart said.

"We don't worry much, however, because we always manage to pull through. If there's a community need for a free university, it will somehow sustain itself," she added.

Established in 1968, Heliotrope also operates on registration fees. Teachers set a registration fee ranging from \$10-\$25 for courses, Yoder said.

Heliotrope once charged \$15 and allowed students to take an unlimited number of courses. "That system led to bankruptcy at a slow rate," Yoder said.

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