

PRESENT SITUATION 'A CRISIS'

Faculty Opposes Change in Higher Education

By unanimous action, the faculty of the University of Oregon Wednesday went on record as opposing current attempts to break down Oregon's 20-year old pattern of state supported higher education. The action was contained in a lengthy statement sent to the State Board of Higher Education.

Termining the present situation "a crisis in the development of the State System of Higher Education," the statement strongly supports the plan of organization and specialization of function which has been followed in Oregon since 1932. Such a plan has made possible, the statement says, "a planned, orderly, and economical development through a central authority guided by principle, able to adjudicate disputes between the institutions, to resist the pressures of special groups and regional interests, and to provide first-class instruction in all fields without waste."

"Is this system still in operation?" the statement asks. "Or are we returning to the chaos and waste of the 1920s?"

The faculty action goes on to point out that in recent months "every part of the allocation pattern has been brought into question; recommendations, suggestions, and demands, heard in one quarter or another, have covered the full range of higher education; the liberal arts, professional

fields, and graduate work."

It then enumerates some of the recommendations contained in the so-called Anderson report, the proposals for a full four-year unit in Portland giving graduate as well as undergraduate work, and suggestions from time to time for expansion into such professional areas as business administration, education, and agriculture. In these proposals, the statement says, "principles long accepted appear to be forgotten or controverted; new concepts, introduced without examination, seem to pass without challenge."

Carnival Profits \$260; Organizations Get \$185

Profits for the WRA Carnival, as announced by Ann Blackwell, publicity chairman of the affair, amounted to \$260, net profit, with \$185 going to the houses participating.

The groups with highest intake were Wesley House, which made \$22.09, and the paired living groups Alpha Tau Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha, which made \$19.94. A prize of records from Thompson's Record shop was won by Theta Chi and Alpha Chi Omega, for their winning ring toss booth.

With respect to the Anderson report, the faculty statement supports the action of the State Board of Higher Education in rejecting expansion into the liberal arts areas at the present time. If such a move were authorized, the statement says, "the resulting programs will be thin fare, a mere shadow of truly liberal education." "If developed to provide solid liberal training," it adds, "there will be heavy additional expense to the whole state."

On the Portland situation, the report recognizes that changes will occur and does not oppose "a rational development." It goes on to question, however, whether the growth now proposed will be a planned and an orderly one, without unwarranted expense to the state as a whole.

"Whatever the merits of this decision, it must be recognized that such an institution is bound to duplicate in an extensive and serious way the facilities . . . existing both in the private schools of the Portland area and in the publicly supported units of the State System as a whole. In Portland, duplication at the graduate level is already extensive, and will doubtless be greatly increased in the future, not only in education but in other fields," the statement continues.

The faculty statement was introduced by the advisory council,

an elective body representing the general faculty. It concludes:

"It is neither strange nor improper that the faculty of the University of Oregon is disturbed by these developments. A university serves society by the critical examination and preservation of values, and by the increase and dissemination of knowledge. It must always be sensitive to public needs, and especially so when it is publicly supported. It must be ready to accept onerous duties, when the common good requires them—to make sacrifices, when social realities demand them. But it cannot remain silent when the

framework by which it is sustained is threatened . . ."

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Portland State Prexy Gives Views

By Len Calvert

Emerald Assistant News Editor

(Ed. Note: This is an exclusive Emerald interview with Stephen Epler, president of Portland State College. He presents the arguments for a four-year school in Portland in opposition to the University faculty resolution.)

"More youths of high ability from low income families will have a chance to have a higher education." This is the basic reason that Portland State should be a four-year school, according to Stephen Epler, president of Portland State.

In an exclusive interview with the Emerald Saturday, Epler said that a four-year school in Portland would also end "geographic and economic discrimination." He argued that more colleges in larger towns would give more people a chance to go to school, and that many students can not now afford to go away to school and pay the necessary room and board bills.

An another argument for a four year school in Portland given by Epler was the fact that while the population in Oregon has doubled in the last fifty years, the college

enrollment "has increased ten fold."

Slight Effect

The effect of a four year college in Portland on the enrollment in the University would be very slight, Epler believes. He feels that most of the students who would attend Portland State could not afford to come to Eugene and that Portland State would pull only a few away from Oregon. He stressed the fact that it would be giving many students a chance for a degree would could not otherwise afford it because they could live at home and also work in the establishment.

Epler also feels that the establishment of a four year state school in Portland would have little effect on the private schools in that area. He pointed to Seattle university in Seattle, "in the shadow of the University of Washington" as proof of his reasoning that people would still attend the private schools if they wanted to.

On the question of duplication of courses being taught by state schools Epler said that "we should not be afraid of duplication except in specialized fields such as law or medicine." When asked if he felt that the teachers colleges should

also be granted a liberal arts degree, he said that he felt they should and that it is "definitely a national trend" for teachers colleges to grant both liberal arts and education degrees.

On the matter of the cost of maintaining a four year school in Portland, Epler said that he did not advocate cutting the existing budget for higher education in smaller portions, but that the budget should be either made bigger or a separate budget for Portland State should be drawn up.

Claiming that Oregon now does not pay as much per capita in taxes for education as either Washington or California, Epler said that the growing population and wealth of the state should take care of any necessary increase in the costs of the State System of Higher Education.

He believes that the bill will pass the legislature, if not this year then at the next session. As Epler sees it, the demand for a four year state school in Portland is great enough that the bill will keep coming up until it is passed. Epler stated that it is "inevitable" that the state shall provide four years of education in Portland.

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