

Student members on state board debated

By DEAN WHEELER
Of the Emerald

Student representation on an expanded State Board of Higher Education has the support by Governor Tom McCall but not the way House Bill 1587 would have it.

The bill expands the board to twelve members by the addition of three students chosen from the individual schools—one student for each 5,000 registered. From the possible thirteen candidates, Governor McCall would choose three.

Speaking in behalf of the governor, Bob Davis, executive assistant to the governor, said, "the governor supports the addition of students to the State Board, but not in the form presented in House Bill 1587.

"The governor would prefer a system which would have two members, one voting and one ex-officio.

"And secondly, that one student be from one of the three major universities and the other student from the series of smaller institutions. Each student would serve two years, one year as the ex-officio member, and then be promoted to the voting position."

The voting position would be alternated between the

major universities and the smaller schools explained Davis.

Stephanie Larsen, a senator representing ASUO, testified that "Student members would provide the Board with a direct access to the University environment so that Board decisions would more accurately meet the real needs of the campuses. The State Board of Education would then truly reflect a proper perspective."

Davis said that student members would "Provide a meaningful experience—contact—for board members who often receive their information about students only on a confrontation basis.

"It will help students who now see the issues of education in black-and-white to realize the complexity of the issues which face the State Board."

Opposing testimony was given by Jean Hughes, representing the Citizens Coalition for Responsibility.

She agreed that student voices need to be heard on the subject of grades, but she felt sufficient opportunity is given through the existing channels.

Mrs. Hughes added, "the university is a learning process. Students cannot have the experience or ability

to deal with the problems the State Board faces. Furthermore, I can not see where full-time students will get the time to function adequately on the board."

Larsen estimated that members of the board spend approximately five or six days a month working for the state.

Don Larson, assistant chancellor of the State System of Higher Education stated, "I don't know if the student members would make things more representative. I do think the ultimate effect would result in lessened student impact on the decision making processes."

Larsen testified that he "feared student members at governmental policy making positions might be a trap. Students might rely on this as the only way to communicate their needs. In my opinion, a better, more productive method is their advisory position in Universities and at the State Board."

The bill, if passed by the Education Sub-committee of Health Education and Welfare, will go to the committee for a vote and then to the floor of the House for similar action.

A date for further action has not been set.

Correction

Information director for the civil rights office of the regional HEW office in Seattle is Harvey Chester, not Harry Cluter, as reported in Wednesday's Emerald.

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Qualifications proposal 'may deter USIU'

SALEM (Special)—A House bill which would require each new institute of higher education in the state of Oregon to present qualifications before an Education Co-ordinating Council was heard before the House Education and Welfare Committee Wednesday afternoon.

HB 1507, sponsored by Rep. Richard Eymann (D-Lane) is intended to control the quality of post-high school education by making sure each institute of higher education meets minimum requirements.

Eymann said the bill was "born from the United States International University (USIU) controversy."

Rep. Leroy Owens (D-Lane) said the bill was "not intended to be a deterrent to USIU, but might act as one if USIU cannot answer the questions asked it by the co-ordinating council."

The criteria new universities or colleges must meet listed by Rep. Eymann included:

Educational aims of the institute

Financial background of the institute

Student make-up and enrollment projection

Curriculum

Faculty background

And any other information requested by the Council.

Federal funds available to all universities, private and public, would be accessible to all new institutes, said Eymann. He contended that for this reason all new post-high school educational institutes be examined "by the Council."

"I would not like to see another USIU controversy without asking a lot of questions first," said Rep. Owens.

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