

University legal team assists students

By TORRIE McALLISTER
Of the Emerald

Lawyers Robert Ackerman and Richard Owens form the legal team hired by the ASUO to provide legal consultation and representation for University students.

"As of last summer there were two similar legal programs in the United States, providing complete legal services to students," Ackerman said. "Since then we have been contacted by 15 other campuses looking into the University's program."

Ackerman describes group legal services as a relatively new kind of service where a lawyer or a law firm provides defined legal services to members of a group.

The services of Ackerman and Owens are available to any student at the University who has paid his fees. The ASUO spends about \$1500 a month to retain the team with money that comes out of students' incidental fees.

The ASUO Legal Service office is located on the 3rd floor of the EMU. Owens is available in the morning. Ackerman keeps afternoon office hours.

An average case load during fall term was about 75 students a month. Ackerman said. We are in our EMU office every weekday, and have seen students during weekends and over vacations when necessary, he said.

Ackerman explained that while they prefer to see students by appointment, if a student comes in and the lawyers are available they will talk over the problems.

"Everyone who makes an appointment will see an attorney," Ackerman said. "If a student wants to see a lawyer we think he should be able to see one. If we have to turn him down because we can't handle his particular case we want to ad-

vice him and let him know why."

Ackerman explained that this attitude reflects the desire of President Iain More and the ASUO to provide more personal, individualized services to students.

The kinds of cases handled by Ackerman and Owens during fall term ranged from landlord-tenant problems to no-fault divorces. Under their ASUO contract the services Ackerman and Owens can render include: review and drafting of leases, contracts and settlements, advice and consultation on any legal matter, legal research necessary to adequately represent the client, and assistance in no-fault divorce.

Ackerman explained that much of their work for students involves negotiations to resolve a dispute, and the drafting of legal



Robert Ackerman

documents.

"We try to avoid litigation (a contested law suit) whenever possible," he said. "We take the problem up to the point where you have to go to court. This has never happened yet."

The ASUO contract does not allow Ackerman or Owens to make appearances in civil cases in any court.

"If a student is in trouble we can negotiate and advise him up to the point where he is arrested, and in jail," Ackerman said. "Once a student has been arrested, if he has financial need, he can get a court appointed attorney."

"If a student wants to take a case to court and represent himself, we can do the basic research, and advise him on how to handle it," Ackerman said. "But we don't necessarily recommend it."

Ackerman's case record shows a diverse list of claims handled for students during fall term. Landlord-tenant complaints, loans, state residency, domestic relation, unemployment compensation, wage claims, immigration, name changes, and insurance are among the problems dealt with during the first three months of the 1971-72 school year.

The no-fault divorce provision of the ASUO contract allows Owens and Ackerman to process divorces for students where the issues of children, and property have been resolved by the couple. This service ordinarily costs a person around \$300, including the lawyers fee. Under the no-fault divorce provision the student pays a court cost of about \$70, and small fee for typing of required papers.

Owens is a specialist in draft problems and counseling, and acts as an advisor for the ASUO Draft and Military Information Center.

Faculty oks Ph.D. degree in Business

Two personnel committees were formed and the College of Business Administration was granted permission to award a Ph.D. degree in Wednesday's brief meeting of University faculty.

Most of the 45-minute meeting was spent discussing whether the College of Business Administration should be allowed to award a doctorate of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree instead of the DBA (doctorate of business administration) degree.

The motion, which was approved by the Faculty Senate last week, was presented by Frank Reithel, Professor of chemistry, on behalf of the Graduate Council. He said the council felt the DBA degree was less prestigious than the Ph.D. degree and could hinder students when seeking jobs.

Discussion was centered on an amendment by Vice-President Harry Alpert to postpone changing the degree until October, 1972, when the Hearing Panel on University Priorities (HPUP) will finish its study of doctoral programs. The date was subsequently changed to April, 1972.

Alpert's amendment was criticized by Iain More, ASUO President, and Donald Tull, Dean of the College. They pointed out that a delay could impede persons presently seeking jobs and that changing the degree would have no relevance to the HPUP study.

The amendment was defeated and the main motion passed.

Also passed was Advisory Council Chairman Paul Cavin's motion forming two personnel committees to study promotion and tenure. Cavin said the committees—a Professional School Personnel Committee and a Liberal Arts Personnel Committee—would only "affect one change in the procedure the Advisory Council has been using in the review of tenure and promotion." Previously, the Advisory Council appointed subcommittees to deal with tenure; the motion would make the committees elected from the faculty.

The motion passed with little discussion, although Iain More raised the question of student members on the committees, a problem President Robert Clark referred to the Student-Faculty Liaison Committee.

In other business, the body heard Clark reassure them that any budget cuts will be spread among all University areas and not come only from the faculty portion of the budget. However, he said, "We really do not know what items will be cut from what budget. We are trying to achieve the goal of reducing the budget by seven per cent but, at the same time, trying to protect positions of the faculty."

Nixon appoints Flemming as aide

Arthur Flemming, a former University of Oregon President, was sworn in as a new "Presidential consultant on aging" to President Nixon Tuesday afternoon in the White House.

Flemming, 66, who was president of the University from 1961 to 1968, will receive \$36,000 a year as Nixon's aide.

President Nixon announced the appointment at the White House Conference on Aging Dec. 2. Flemming was head of the 1971 conference.

Prior to the time he served as

University president, Flemming was secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the late Dwight Eisenhower's cabinet. He left the University of Oregon to become president of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. He later left this position to become chairman of President Nixon's 1971 conference on aging.

Flemming's assignment will involve overseeing the development of policy decisions by various federal agencies to insure that they do not run counter to the interests of elderly persons.

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