

State Treasurer Redden reports:

Collective bargaining legislation to aid faculty

A recently enacted piece of legislation (HB 2263, establishing collective bargaining for the public employee sector, will have the effect of giving faculty members within the state system of higher education bargaining rights instead of "begging rights," State Treasurer James Redden said Tuesday.

Speaking to about 30 faculty members and some students in the EMU Dad's Room, Redden said previous legislation dealing with collective bargaining had not really been drafted with the purposes of including all public employees. He said a limited collective bargaining bill affecting state employees was passed in 1969.

"Under that law, bargaining units within local governments could ask to come under the law, but very few did," he said. "Up until the new law, Oregon State employees had fairly good bargaining rights while faculty members were limited to begging rights," he said.

The former Medford attorney and author of HB 2263 said when he was appointed to the governor's task force to study collective bargaining for the public sector, he wasn't sure how broad a spectrum of employees the bill would encompass.

"I asked myself 'how much will the public put up with?' and 'Should we lump everyone under the same law?' We decided that everyone should come under the law in order to give them effective bargaining power," Redden said.

The law does exclude certain employees such as firemen and policemen from going on strike.

Redden outlined the steps to be taken in the bargaining process. The first step, he said, involves choosing an appropriate bargaining unit. Once chosen, that organization represents the faculty in negotiations with the employer. If negotiations are at an impasse, then the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) is notified, and they provide for state mediation. If mediation fails to break the impasse, then an objective fact-finding crew examines the issues and presents the facts.

"If fact-finding does not resolve the dispute then the employees can strike," says Redden. He adds, however, that at any point in the negotiation process one of the parties can request binding arbitration.

"Binding arbitration is strong medicine, but the beauty of it is that the parties will make up their minds rather than have someone unfamiliar with the entire affair come in and make a binding arbitrary decision."

After Redden delivered his talk he fielded questions from the audience. Among those topics he touched were:

Higher Education—"I think higher education has been coming under an increasing amount of fire from the public, and their reaction against higher education spending is hard to fight. But I think all public institutions are facing this kind of difficulty."

Communication between Legis-

lators and faculty—"Certainly not everyone in the Legislature is informed about what is going on at the University," he said. "Several of them are though, and especially the ones in the Ways and Means Committee."

"I think the faculty should have more contact with the Legislators also. Faculty representatives or organizations should attempt to explain to the Legislators exactly what their problems are. I don't think the Legislators understand

some of the problems of the faculty and I don't think the faculty understands some of the problems of the Legislators."

Running for Governor—"I think so. There's a disadvantage in announcing too early because any work I do as State Treasurer would be suspect. Also given the attitude of the public today, I don't think Oregonians are ready to have 12 months of campaigning," he said. "But if tomorrow was filing day, I'd be filing."

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Student plans to run
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John Stewart announced his candidacy for State Representative from District 41 in Lane



John Stewart

County Wednesday morning. Stewart plans to enter the Democratic primary. The incumbent Representative is Republican Mary Burrows. Stewart is the

first announced candidate for the office.

Stewart, a 21-year-old University student, was a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention. He served as the first chair of Sen. George McGovern's presidential campaign in Oregon.

He called for change through the legislative process including a complete conflict of interest and public disclosure act for public officials and candidates during a news conference in the Eugene Hotel.

He also advocates stronger health and day care programs in Oregon.

Stewart said he supports stiff environmental legislation to "protect the Willamette Valley from unchecked industrialization and urban blight."

Stewart also advocated the legalizing of marijuana and lowering the drinking age to 19.

In a published release, Stewart accounted both his campaign's financial status and his personal assets.

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