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Senate recommends Mac Court board

By WALLY BENSON
Of the Emerald

The possibility of a student-faculty governing board for McArthur Court came a step closer to reality Wednesday with a favorable recommendation from the University Senate.

After much debate and presentations from representatives of both sides of the issue, the senate voted to recommend passage to the General Faculty by a 26-12 margin, with four abstentions. Don Chalmers, ASUO Consultant and co-sponsor of the proposal, spoke at length to the senate urging its passage.

"We have several reasons for urging approval," said Chalmers. "The student body contributed \$226,000 for the construction of Mac Court and Hayward Field, and were given governance rights. It is this contribution to build a basketball pavilion which sparked our interest in obtaining student control of the use and scheduling of Mac Court.

"Also, there is much controversy over the way scheduling is currently done. The EMU director controls the scheduling of the facility, while the athletic department determines possible uses. For an event to take place, two approvals are necessary. This has led to one person allowing the event while the other disapproved."

As accepted by the senate, the board would be composed of two faculty members appointed by the University President, three student members appointed by the ASUO president, and the Vice-President for Administration and Finance, who shall be ex-officio and non-voting.

The board would be empowered to set policy as to the use of and scheduling for McArthur Court. According to the proposal, "Scheduling policy authority shall include jurisdiction over any factor the board may deem important to its scheduling policy decisions. These factors shall include, but not be limited to, security, public safety, ticket prices, seating arrangements, and type and size of attendance."

Other duties and powers listed in the proposal:

- The board shall set policy regarding any financial arrangements concerning McArthur Court, including user charges.

- The board may delegate those duties and powers it deems necessary for the efficient and responsible management of the Court.

- The board shall establish its own operational procedures and rules.

- The board shall report and be responsible to the University president or his delegated representative.

- The board shall commence operation upon the appointment

of all its members, but not later than three weeks after adoption of this motion by the University faculty.

Chalmers had presented a detailed talk in favor of the proposal. Besides mentioning the two main reasons the idea began, he referred to the in-depth research he had done. He pointed out that a board of this type is not peculiar to this proposal, as "there are six or seven examples in the Pacific Northwest with systems such as this one."

He said the University of Idaho's domed stadium, with a seating capacity of 18,000, is run

entirely by a student board that appoints the facility's manager. He also gave a local example.

"The EMU Board is an example of how student boards can work in this institution and others in the Northwest," he claimed. "People have respected the fact that students have committed themselves to the successful functioning of a facility."

The main objection to the proposal came from Ray Hawk, vice-president for Administration and Finance. Hawk took issue with the proposal's intent to a reward financial input with governance rights.

"Trading money for governance rights is a tricky path," said Hawk. "For instance, those people in the community who paid \$250 for the new seats could come to us requesting governance rights."

Hawk countered Chalmers' use of the University of Idaho as indicative of how such a system can be successful by pointing out the fact that in order to purchase the pavilion, they mortgaged themselves far into the future. He is wary of a like thing happening on this campus.

"A board such as this would be very useful if it was advisory," he continued. "But a governance role

is a complicated picture. If we have assistance from a board it would have to be advisory. I feel the athletic director is hamstrung enough with all the regulations and opinions he already has to follow.

"I am in no way critical of the students. I commend Jim Bernau (ASUO President) and his staff for how they worked out the seating arrangement with the acting athletic director. They have done well, but it isn't wise to give any group, student or faculty, governance rights."

Hawk emphasized the
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Photo by Greg Clark

The meter's hungry too

As part of the Iranian Student Organization's protest against the planned execution of 10 political prisoners in Iran, 14 university students are holding a hunger strike, stationed in a truck in front of the EMU. No one has bothered to feed the parking meter in front of the truck either. Security officials said they hadn't noticed the neglect.

Students continue hunger strike

The hunger strike by 14 students headquartered in a large truck outside the EMU went into its fourth day Wednesday. The students (8 Iranians, 4 Americans, a German and a Mexican) are taking no nourishment except an occasional cup of tea.

Starting their demonstration early Sunday morning, the demonstrators are protesting the planned execution of ten Iranians sentenced to die before a firing squad. The demonstrators also hope to expose the Shah's regime and its links with the U.S. Striking students believe the ten Iranians are being held on "trumped up charges."

"The Shah wants to appear like a liberal, democratic person in this country. If he starts receiving telegrams from people in this country that complain about what he's doing, there will be a change," said one Iranian student at the truck headquarters.

The Iranians at the truck contend that the Shah is merely a puppet of the U.S. They claim the coup which put the monarch in power was the first major work of the CIA in 1953. This link was recently emphasized.

they feel, by the appointment of past CIA director Richard Helms as the U.S. Ambassador to Iran and the presence of 20,000 U.S. military officers stationed in Iran.

Considering their own future in Iran, the Iranian students said they definitely plan to return to their homeland. But they did not anticipate a warm welcome. One student said, "It depends on your activities and how well you're known, but sooner or later you have to go underground. If you're against His Majesty, you're sentenced to life in prison. If you carry a gun, you're executed. The Shah is becoming more fascist every day."

The hunger strike is one of several similar demonstrations being held throughout the U.S. and Europe, according to students at the truck. "It all depends on information we receive from home," said one striker, but he expects the strike to last through Thursday.

The students ask anyone sympathetic to their cause to send telegrams to both U.N. Human Rights Commission, U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y., and Amirabbas Hoveida, Palace of Ministry, Tehran, Iran.