

Senate favors direct election of members

By WALLY BENSON
Of the Emerald

A lively discussion on filling University Senate vacancies highlighted that body's January meeting yesterday.

The action was stimulated by a proposal by Barry Siegel of the economics department and Richard Littman of the psychology department to require that all vacancies be filled by elections among the proper constituencies. Since the faculty already follows this procedure, the requirement was aimed at the Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) members of the senate.

Presently, the ASUO constitution provides that SUAB vacancies be filled by appointment by the ASUO president. Kirby Garrett, ASUO vice-president, told the senate the proposal was in direct conflict with the constitution.

"There are two basic problems with the proposal," he said. "First, an election costs us about \$1,000. Secondly, the proposal supercedes the ASUO constitution which says: 'The vacancy of an elected position has to be filled by appointment by the ASUO president if the vacancy occurs more than four weeks prior to the next scheduled ASUO election.'"

"The supreme question here is recognition of the student constitution," he said.

The possibility of having alternates elected at the same time as the actual SUAB representatives was suggested by Littman. While both Garrett and ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau agree the idea was sound, they said the implementation of such a plan would require a constitutional amendment.

Bernau also commented that his appointments to fill the vacancies are not arbitrary, candidates for the job are recommended to him by current SUAB representatives.

In response to Garrett's comments, Littman said he was not aware of the sharpness of the constitutional issues. But, he said, "We are members of the University Senate and we should vote as such. We should vote on this proposal and take it to the SUAB and let them know what we think."

Edward Diller, honors college director, moved to table the proposal until the ASUO Executive could effect the constitutional changes. He later withdrew this motion in favor of a move to postpone rather than table the issue. The senate approved 32-5 a postponement of the issue until their June 2 meeting.

According to senate Chair Jim Tattersall, if the general faculty ignores the recommendation to postpone, they could take action on the proposal at their Wednesday meeting. To this end,

Siegel requested a contingency vote, so the faculty would be aware of the senate's feeling on the issue itself. The vote was 35-4 against the proposal.

Siegel told the senate he was willing to accept their recommendation to wait until the May 26 meeting.

Siegel and Littman fared better in an earlier proposal to the senate, requesting that the Graduate Student Council's votes be published in *Oregon Week*, the faculty and staff newspaper.

"Many deliberations and decisions of the council are found out by students at a critical juncture of their careers," said Littman. "They should have previous knowledge of it." There was little discussion of the proposal, and it passed unanimously.

The senate's curriculum committee later presented its annual report of proposed changes in the University curriculum, for faculty approval. According to Al Urquhart, committee chair, there are many changes this year.

He said many of the courses changed were "hidden" under "open-ended" course numbers for experimental, seminar and workshop classes, and are simply being "brought out into the open." The committee has reviewed them all and all are acceptable.

He further stated that the majority of the courses in the report were already being taught in an open-ended classification and "will continue being taught in that capacity if this report is not approved." With only a few questions asked, the report received the senate's near-unanimous approval.

The senate also approved the

establishment of a Russian and East European Area Studies Certificate Program, requested by James Rice, associate professor of German and Russian. Rice said this interdisciplinary award would be in addition to a student's degree.

"Such a certificate would be a valuable part of a graduate's dossier," said Rice. "It would help in finding employment." He said the certificate would be official proof that the student is qualified in both areas of his interdisciplinary studies. The senate approved recommending the program to the faculty by a wide margin.

English professor John Sherwood concluded the meeting by presenting a policy statement on the "disadvantaged" student programs that he wished the senate to adopt. In part, the statement read: "It is the policy of the University not to exclude ethnically defined organizations, either in a social or an academic context, where there is no invasion of academic freedom, of individual freedom of choice, or of the rights of other groups; claims for official recognition or funding will naturally require official review."

Before the senate could take a stand on the statement, the meeting was adjourned due to time considerations and dwindling attendance. The matter will be fully aired in a special session of the senate Friday at 3:30 p.m. in 229 Law.

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