

# ASUO argues fee concerns

By GWENDA RICHARDS  
Of the Emerald

Tuition cost remedies high lighted student testimony before a legislative committee Saturday and brought favorable responses from state legislators, according to ASUO officials.

ASUO and Associated Oregon Student Lobby (AOSL) representatives discussed concerns relating to the student financial burden before the State Government Operations subcommittee on post-secondary education.

Jim Bernau, ASUO president, cited rising tuition costs as the key issue in the meeting.

"We made a good case for lowering tuition because presently, tuition is restricting many persons from pursuing or continuing an education," Bernau said.

Kirby Garrett, ASUO vice-president and AOSL chairer said that the percentage of education costs levied at students should be decreased by five per cent.

Presently, the student pays 25 per cent of education costs, while the state supplies the remainder.

"We would suggest an 80-20 relationship as the state must realize education should be a top priority in a democratic society," explained Garrett.

Student representatives also expressed concern for the 100 per cent burden non-residents carry.

"It may be more economically feasible to lower tuition and get more out-of-state students," suggested Mark Cogan, ASUO administrative assistant for legislative affairs.

"Compounding this burden is that financial aid for students in this state is inadequate, a fact demonstrated by the Educational Coordinating Commission (ECC)," said Cogan.

According to the ECC's findings, families below the \$12,700 income range have federal and state grants available to them. An average family of four in the \$13,600 bracket are squeezed out of grant eligibility.

"This places a tremendous burden on these middle-income students' families, which in effect prices them out of higher education. If this trend continues, the only people in colleges and universities will be the very rich and the very poor," explained Garrett.

The \$37.50 fee paid by each student for capital construction costs was also questioned by student leaders.

"The ASUO feels that the building fee can be cut without hurting students. I'd rather be instructed in lesser surroundings than not be instructed at all," commented Bernau.

## Students break, form own pool of speakers

A fresh attempt is being made to put student speakers in touch with interested groups throughout the state. The attempt involves severing ASUO ties with the University Speaker's Bureau and forming a separate bureau specifically for student use.

This student speaker's bureau will enable students "to go out into the community on a statewide basis and explain what's happening on campus," says Jim Davis, ASUO vice-president. "It is ideal for explaining the issues we are fighting for."

Although student speakers were originally part of a common speakers' pool through the University Speakers' Bureau, the student speakers' bureau will become independent next term because "the University Speakers' Bureau has not given students one engagement since the two were joined," says Davis.

"They don't seem to have any interest in getting students out to speak," he says. "There has been no attempt on their part to put out any effort, even to contact students about distant, small-town speaking engagements," charged Davis.

Mary Hudzikiewicz, head of the University Speakers' Bureau, says she told Davis that, at this point, the bureau has had five to six responses for speakers, of which three remain unfilled. These are in Burns, Brookings and Nyssa, Oregon. None of the groups in these towns requested students specifically, she said.

Hudzikiewicz didn't express concern over the forthcoming split. "If he feels that we haven't contacted him, that's fine," she said.

She explained that the idea behind combining the two bureaus was to avoid a duplication of efforts. "But, perhaps they should be separate so groups could contact students directly, and the students would get more engagements," she added.

Davis said he "thinks the ASUO should separate from the University's bureau and let groups know they can request student speakers." Generally speaking forums, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Junior Chamber of Commerce and Lions Clubs request the largest number of speakers.

Travel money for the ASUO bureau will be funded from executive funds. Davis says he hopes costs will be minimized by the use of private cars.

## Public TV to start drive

By WALLY BENSON  
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Educational and Public Broadcasting Service (OEPBS) needs help in organizing their second annual statewide membership drive.

The drive, headed "Festival '76," begins Friday, March 12, and ends Sunday, March 21. According to Jerry Sullivan, assistant development director for OEPBS, over 100 membership appeals over the air are planned during the 10-day period.

OEPBS is the educational communications network operated for the people of Oregon by and through the State Board of Higher Education. Network stations broadcast 18 hours daily, 7 days a week, and are affiliated with the National Public Radio Network.

The help needed, says Sullivan, ranges from answering telephones to doing studio work for the membership appeal. He says students may help with the drive, as well as members of the Eugene community. The drive includes taped testimonials by the Portland Trailblazers, the Portland Timbers and Julia Childs.



"Anyone who takes part in the drive will be helping support public television," says Sullivan. "The money from the memberships will go back into the OEPBS system and give our people in Portland some time to create new program ideas."

Sullivan says OEPBS officials hope to obtain 8,000 pledges during the drive, which would bring their total membership to 20,000. The increase is necessary, he says, because the Ford Foundation is phasing out its support of the system and an alternate source of funds is needed.

Sullivan listed several reasons for joining OEPBS. "First, the membership fee is tax deductible. Second, members receive a program guide

of all the OEPBS scheduling. And third, the money goes to assisting in more local programs and upgrading our system."

Most of the OEPBS funding comes from state appropriation, with small amounts from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and miscellaneous sources such as the Ford Foundation. Nine per cent comes from membership.

During the membership drive, OEPBS will air several specials and their usual educational programming. OEPBS regularly runs such shows as Sesame Street and The Electric Company and specials include documentaries and entertainment features.

The drive is not isolated in Eugene, as Portland and Corvallis will also participate. The Portland effort is being aided by the OEPBS Wise Eyes, a volunteer group working to promote public television in Oregon.

Those interested in the helping in the drive can contact Sullivan at ext. 4242 in 351 Villard Hall.

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