



Boyd: Boosting research and finances take priority for the new exec

Editor's Note: Pres. William Boyd's philosophy of a university has caused him conflict with those who see this University's role in a different light. The following story, the second in a series of three, examines his philosophy. Friday's story will outline Boyd's reasons for some of his controversial actions at this University.

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Of the Emerald

"I'm more faculty oriented than student oriented. I believe that students in a University that is dominated by quality faculty who are deeply involved in research and in the advancement of knowledge are the luckiest students in American higher education. But you get that kind of university by not permitting students to govern it, but by turning it over to the faculty."

This view so strongly propounded by William Boyd is precisely the attitude that is resented by many students at this University.

To Boyd, a university is first and foremost a place of scholarly research: an environment in which scientific and humanitarian thought will flourish to benefit society.

But Boyd's traditional concept of an ideal university is in sharp contrast to the modern, consumer-oriented concept of education which has sprung up across the country and is particularly strong at this university.

Students argue that the University should be student-oriented; that since school is financed by their tuition and by Oregon taxes, the University should be as responsible to their input as a corporation is responsible to a consumer.

But Boyd claims that students will benefit more in his kind of university than in any other set-up.

"In a research-intensive university, you get a certain spirit of education — it's an inquiry-oriented kind of education, as opposed to just a synthetic or dissemination form of education. For the academically able and the academically motivated student, that's the finest educational experience in the world."

But groups like the ASUO argue that their concept of a "fine educational experience" is one in which the students are fully incorporated into the decision-making process at the university.

ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau feels that Boyd essentially denies students that opportunity for experience. Boyd chooses to look to the faculty, placing students' "inexperienced" input secondary.

"When presidents at top uni-

versities are looking for guidance on how to handle an issue, unless it's strictly a student issue, the primary attention is paid to the view of the faculty," says Boyd.

In following the will of the faculty, Boyd says he is willing to lay aside his personal philosophy and respect decisions which the faculty makes regarding student involvement. ASUO leaders are angry that Boyd is ready to listen to the faculty but will not give their policies full credit.

Boyd is finding that students are not the only ones who don't always accept his concept of a university.

Taxpayers, legislators and alumni all have strong interests in the state schools. And Boyd is working hard to make sure that their interest remains a positive one.

Boyd has an intense desire to shape the University into a top-ranked American university and he knows that only with a strong financial base will a school's quality remain high. To ensure increased monetary support, the president has thrown his full support into improving the University's football program.

understand what it is getting for its money, it will think that it's a worthwhile investment."

Boyd speaks lightly to the public about the depth of student convictions and he draws constant fire on campus from student organizations. Yet Boyd has a personal respect for students as individuals and as groups.

The conflicts which have been so apparent between Boyd and students are, to a large extent, due to the president's firm belief in a division between students and the university process. Boyd will stand by this belief no matter how great the controversy.

Political frictions, though, do not change Boyd's sympathy for student causes.

At the University of California at Berkeley, he was the administration's spokesperson in debate with a hostile student body; but he says that he never lost his deep identification with the social goals in which students had become so deeply involved.

Boyd served as vice-chancellor for student affairs from 1966 to 1968.

Since then, however, he says he has become disillusioned with the movement which has changed

sion of Cambodia with the same vigor that students at Berkeley protested early American involvement in Vietnam. But when CMU students took over the campus ROTC buildings, Boyd refrained from calling in police. After five days, the students gave back the building, and as Boyd puts it, "We survived by not using force."

Boyd's sympathy for the students' cause outraged the citizens of Mt. Pleasant, but Boyd says their wrath did not change his attitude. "Those people were always worried about me."

"We had a terrible battle over ROTC there," remembers Boyd. "I asked the Army to remove an officer from our campus before nightfall on a given day; and oh, gawd, the conservative community was really up in arms over that. It turned out that the officer was a member of the local John Birch Society."

Boyd was identified even more closely with the students' cause when he could detach himself from his administrative role. His insistence did not keep the students' cause out of his own personal politics.

At Central Michigan, Boyd put

up \$100 of his own money to charter a bus for demonstrators protesting the killings of four students at Kent State University in 1970. "They (the protestors) wanted me to authorize the use of a university-owned bus for the purpose," Boyd explained. "I couldn't do it because that would mean using state money for a political purpose. But I also wanted to make some type of personal witness that I sympathized with the students and their right to demonstrate."

The issues have changed and the activism has pretty much died out, in 1976, but Boyd still feels he identifies with students. Furthermore, Boyd feels that the majority of students are receptive toward him.

"I haven't felt hostility from the student body aside from the most formal opposition of organized groups," he says. "Everywhere I go I have the feeling that I'm being warmly received. So if the student body is hostile toward me, then I would have to say that they certainly don't show it because that's not the feeling that I get. I just don't see the evidence of any profound student dissatisfaction with me."

Boyd said he wasn't even "especially bothered" by the demonstration at his inauguration as University president in January. When asked how he felt about the formation of a group which calls itself the United Front Against Boyd, he just smiled and said, "I really don't take it too personally."

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Good athletics mean more money and bettered academics, Boyd believes.

Excellent athletics is the easiest way for university to make a name for itself; but Boyd is also emphasizing to the public the academic prestige with which this University is nationally regarded. "I have been startled by the degree to which the University is commonly misunderstood and underrated in a state which ought to take pride in its creation and nurture."

In a recent address to the Portland Chamber of Commerce, Boyd emphasized a return to campus normalcy. "Serious study has returned. There are still occasional angry demonstrations, and I'm not free of anxiety, but they are infrequent and gain little support or attention.... More often, study is punctuated by the kinds of frivolity we nostalgically associate with earlier years of innocence."

The picture of students which Boyd relayed to the Portland businesspersons is deprecating and lacks depth, but he probably made a solid advance in his attempt to strengthen ties between the University and the state taxpayers.

"I hate to put it crassly, but my principle objective is to raise the level of financial support. We're not getting enough dollars from the Legislature, but I think the Legislature is probably genuinely representative of the people; and if we want a richer level of support, the people of the state have to want us to have it."

Boyd gives high priority to the tasks of fund-raising and public relations, and he has taken them on with vigor in a time when educational appropriations are continually being threatened.

"The University has to be funded at a lot higher level than the state's colleges. A labor intensive, research intensive educational program is frightfully more expensive than a student intensive one, and that's why we need much more money than we're getting. Once the public is brought to

from the idealistic sit-ins of the early 1960s to the frustrated violence in the waning years of the Vietnam War.

"I used to be a hell of a lot more optimistic, frankly, than I am now. Before Charles Reich ever published the 'Greening of America,' I was talking about what I perceived as the greening of America — the higher set of values that it seemed to me that Berkeley kids were expressing."

"I'd been terribly disappointed and in some respects disillusioned by the fact that it all had such a grim end. Vietnam just turned the whole thing sour. It was the end of the highest sense of the movement — the end of that feeling people had that they were going to move from one level of freedom to the other."

Boyd's identification with the American social movement of the 1960s did not stand him in good stead with Ronald Reagan, the conservative California governor at that time. Reagan and the university's Board of Regents began a purge of the liberal UC administration by firing the highly popular Pres. Clark Kerr.

"In Reagan's eyes I was a radlib. Once Kerr was fired, I didn't think I could serve the university by staying on; as long as the old administration was there, the university was going to be subjected to criticism." He took the first Michigan job offered him, but "woke up every morning with a sense of loss about what had happened."

Though disillusioned by the shift that activism in America was taking by the 1970s, Boyd remained close to the students' cause. His interaction with protesting students as president of Central Michigan from 1968 to 1975 and his refusal to suppress the protests despite outcries from the conservative community of Mt. Pleasant gained him his reputation as a "champion of student rights."

Students at Central Michigan attacked the United States' inva-

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