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Study advises EMU price hikes, cutbacks

By STEVE FREDERICK
Of the Emerald

Prices for EMU services are generally too low, inventory and accounting procedures are inadequate, counters and food areas are generally overstaffed and too many food services are duplicated, according to a management and financial study completed recently by Gregor, Thorp, McCracken and Early, a Eugene accounting firm.

The firm, commissioned by the ASUO March 9, studied past financial statements, current management structure, planned and actual policies, procedures and operations in the student complex. The goal of the study was to develop situations which, when implemented, "would correct administrative and operational deficiencies and inefficiencies and place those areas of interest in a firm managerial and financial environment."

The study examined four EMU operational areas: food

service, the main desk, the print shop and the Outdoor Resource Center.

Food service drew the greatest amount of fire in the report. The report states that prices charged are not high enough to adequately cover costs, recipes are not maintained in an orderly manner, access to storerooms and freezers is not adequately controlled and checklists are not reconciled with monthly inventory reports. Present inventory procedures make it impossible to differentiate the costs associated with the four different service areas (cafeteria, Skylight, soda bar, etc.).

The researchers found evidence that students and part-time help are punching the time clock prior to preparing for work, and that wages are paid for the amount of time noted on the time card without reference to scheduled hours.

The report also took aim at duplication and competition between the several food service areas. Rather than pro-

ducing increased sales, the areas compete for the same business, it said.

Continued operation of the Skylight in its present format is not justified by present sales volume, menu selection and expenses, according to the report.

Although the Faculty Club (across University Street from the EMU) offers the only table service in EMU operations, food prices at the club are determined at the same rates as the cafeteria. Labor costs for operating the club currently run more than 70 per cent of the prices charged for meals, compared to 45 per cent for the other food service areas.

The EMU catering service, while utilizing an "adequately developed" price schedule, suffers from a lack of exposure. A similar service at Oregon State last year generated more than \$250,000 in revenues, compared to \$60,000 for the EMU.

The report recommends charging prices more in line with costs and periodically updating prices. More authority should be given to management in changing prices, the report stated, as the time consumed by referring price and service changes to boards and committees results in "loss of revenues or increased opportunity costs, untimely decisions, and inadequate, inappropriate or expensive services."

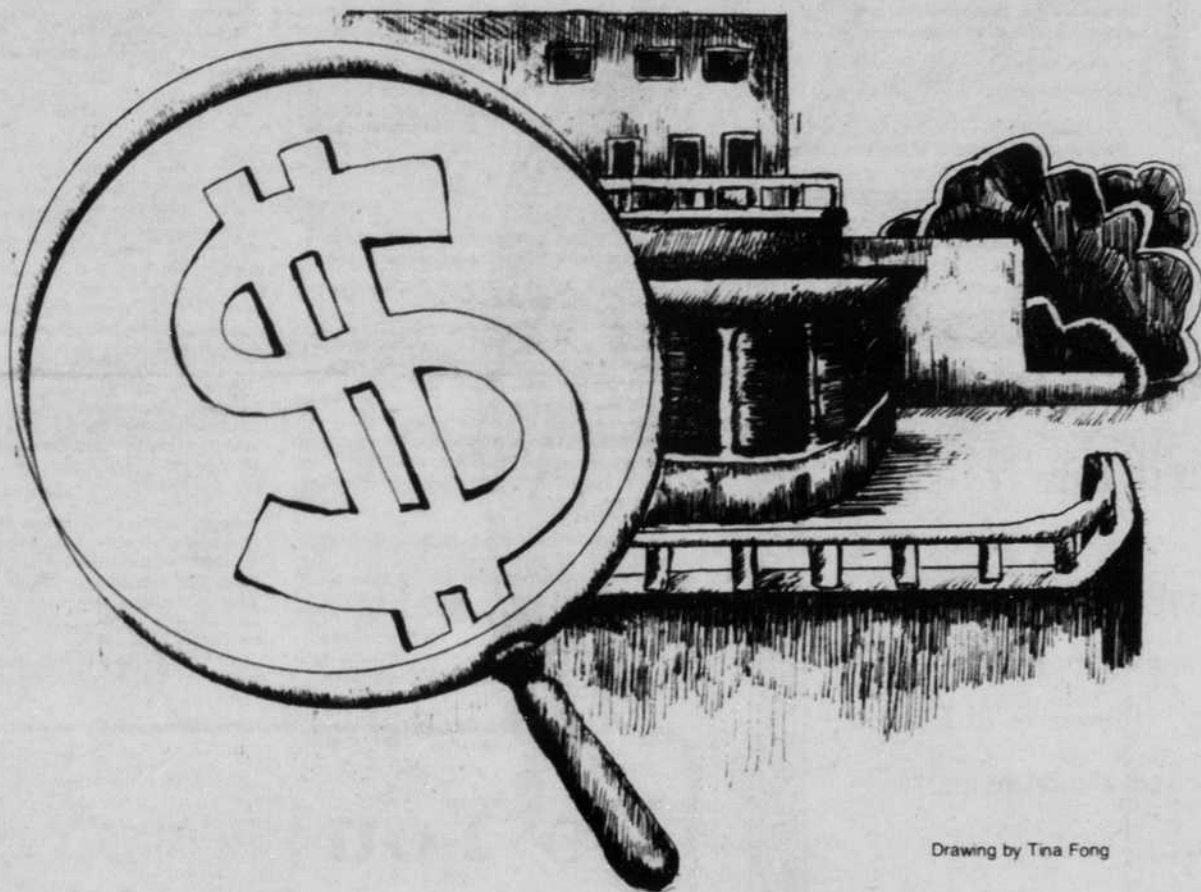
The researchers recommended standardized recipe cards, tighter inventory controls and restricted access to kitchen areas.

The EMU could make greater use of the "knowledge and experiences inherent in a university community," the study said. It recommends replacing full-time employees with part-time help as vacancies develop and utilizing business and architectural students to improve marketing techniques and to improve the "institutional atmosphere" of the various areas.

Altering the appearance of the Faculty Club to give a more "prestigious" appearance, a smorgasbord format to reduce labor, higher prices and closure of food service facilities in the club (utilizing instead the EMU catering service) were offered as possible solutions to club deficits.

Some of the recommendations, if implemented, may be unpopular. The report suggests that student employees be paid at 85 per cent of the minimum wage (which would be legal, according to the report) with the remainder paid in food vouchers redeemable at the EMU.

The recommendations for higher pricing and cutbacks in full-time labor extend to the entire EMU operation. The check-cashing charge at the main desk should be raised to 10 or 15 cents, the researchers said, and higher prices should be charged for city bus passes.



Drawing by Tina Fong

Aspirant aims to open ASUO's 'closed community'

By JIM GREGORY
Of the Emerald

Editor's Note: The following article is the fifth in a six-part series concerning candidates for ASUO president. Wednesday's story will feature Jim Davis.

Echoing a theme that is becoming common among ASUO presidential contenders, candidate Jan Oliver says the present ASUO administration is "too professional and too cold." Unlike some candidates, however, Oliver expresses a general approval of the present administration's goals. "The most important thing out of this year," explains the 27-year-old psychology senior, "is the possibility for future years. It takes years to make a difference."

Oliver says students are now gaining the respect they need to influence decisions. She plans to capitalize on that respect by continuing student negotiations with University Pres. William Boyd, who she believes does not have "a grand view of students, but when approached by a student representative, he gives respect."

She would also support a strong ASUO lobbying effort at next year's legislative session. She especially wants to get students and student programs involved in lobbying for student issues. "Students will

support it (an issue) if they realize what they will get out of it." She says she will push students to get involved but if they are not interested she will have to reconsider the lobby effort.

Oliver does not consider herself a "typical student." In fact, she doesn't believe that such a student exists. Instead, she



Jan Oliver

says, the University is made up of a collective of students with different and varied interests. When looking at a program, she considers how it would "affect the entire University of Oregon experience," not just "the mythical average student."

Because of this view she is a strong supporter of the ASUO-funded programs. She has worked with such programs as the Child Care and Development Center (CCDC), ESCAPE, Women's Referral Service, Black Student Union and SEARCH. As a member of the Incidental Fee Committee, to which she was elected fall term, she has consistently voted to support programs that are often criticized because they do not appeal to a majority of students.

She criticizes the present student administration's "poor relationship with the programs," and says improving that communication would be one of her major concerns as ASUO president. She wants the ASUO Executive to be a "program advocate."

According to Oliver the purpose of the Executive is to be a "central place where students can be heard, interests defined and some action taken." And she feels that the student programs "are an incredible resource indicating what students need or what students do."

Oliver talks a lot about communication. She considers herself a "grass roots" can-

didate and says that is the approach she will take if elected. She claims too many students view a student politician as "a different sort of person." Before she ran for the IFC, her first election, she didn't think she could relate to student politicians.

She accuses student government of being "a closed community. The general, and that's general in quotes, student who walks into the ASUO can't always get past the barriers."

How does she plan to improve communication between students and the ASUO? She points out that within the "diversified" student body, students interact in small groups. By seeking diversified students to work within the ASUO, she believes student government will begin to communicate with small groups all over campus. She says before she ran for the IFC many of her friends didn't even vote. "Now they ask me questions about the ASUO."

But Oliver states she wouldn't rely on just a diversified staff to improve communication.

"The executive should go out and find out what programs and students need. I can't talk to every student, I can only take a non-random survey. But it's still good. It's good for the Executive and it's good for students. It's not hard to sit down at a table and just listen. We do it while campaigning, but it shouldn't stop there."