

ASUO sets priorities for year's legislative lobbying

By **BRENDA TABOR**
Of the Emerald

The ASUO staff approved six legislative issues of state-wide concern Friday, sending their legislative effort on its way. The issues are ready for presentation to the state Legislature or the State Board of Higher Education. Work will now proceed on researching the issue and lobbying the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) to adopt the issues.

Four of those issues will be presented to the state Legislature. The first issue proposes legislation to publicly release records from student classroom survey evaluations. Last fall, the state board determined that the release of faculty records should be decided by individual institutions.

This action by the board was termed "unsatisfactory to students," because we contended that such a decision ought to be made on a state-wide basis, due to the need demonstrated for that information," says ASUO Pres. Jan Oliver. The University faculty voted down public release of the evaluations.

The second issue deals with establishment of a tuition voucher system to support higher education. The ASUO proposed that the OSL develop and propose legislation setting up a special commission to study the topic. Plans call for that commission to undertake an 18-month study of the concept and develop a plan to implement the

voucher system. The plan will be presented to the state Legislature.

Establishment of tax credit to help defray tuition, fee and textbook costs has been adopted as another legislative issue. This would allow an individual to credit a portion of his educational costs against his tax liability. The credit would be based on actual costs.

The tax credit proposal includes provisions to prorate the credit according to the share of costs borne between students and parents. It limits the total tax credit claimed by an individual during a given year. Another provision establishes a base income and decreases the value of credit as income rises. An additional measure may be added to restrict what locations or types of institutions for which students and parents may claim tax credits.

The last issue ready for the Legislature proposes an addition to provisions in Oregon law to prevent discrimination against students in housing and employment.

Two additional issues must first go to the state board before being sent to the Legislature. Abolishment of tenure for non-academic positions will first be studied by OSL to determine the depth of the problem of non-academic employees enjoying tenure.

The ASUO is also proposing return of the health fee into incidental fees, to halt moves in the state board to remove an athletic fee and student union building from student-controlled incidental fees.

Students have opposed these recent moves to further weaken the amount of impact students make on the establishment of tuition levels, Oliver says. Returning the health fee to the incidental fee will strengthen student involvement in decisions which affect the cost of their education and its quality, she added.

"We expect to get all our issues accepted by the OSL," says Mark Cogan, ASUO vice-president for legislative affairs. "If they are not accepted, it will be difficult to get them passed on our own." Cogan feels the ASUO's credibility would be questioned by legislators because it only represents one campus.

"We need the support of the other campuses — that's the only reason OSL was formed," he says.

But legislative adoption of the issues won't mean the end of efforts. "There are dozens of issues that will be introduced that will be introduced that we will have to take a stand on," says Cogan. "We would affect legislation by doing just that, but not nearly as much as we will by having our own bills introduced," he added.

The ASUO has put a second group of issues on the back burner, for now. "We plan to discuss the problem of transferability of credit with other schools before proceeding," says Cogan. He says it is premature to propose legislation for student unionization now. "Student unionization has radical connotations that might jeopardize other programs," he says. The student association is still working on an educational consumer protection act.

Contract talks stalled

Efforts by the Oregon State Employees Association (OSEA) and the University to negotiate a contract for the University's classified employees have reached an impasse.

The approximately 1,400 classified employees at the University, represented by OSEA, have asked the Employment Relations Board (ERB) to provide a mediator to assist in further negotiations.

Classified employees include most of the non-faculty employees at the University.

Although the contract expired July 1, 1975, negotiations were postponed due to a dispute over who should represent the employees. In an election last October, OSEA retained the right to represent workers here, but was not certified by the ERB until May of this year.

Negotiations began Oct. 5, but only lasted three sessions before OSEA called an impasse.

According to Al McKenzie, assistant vice-chancellor of the State Board who represents the University in the contract negotiations, one of the unresolved is-

ssues on the negotiating table is the managerial rights of the University.

According to "Chapter News," the newsletter of University OSEA Chapters 49 and 88 distributed Friday, unresolved issues also include overtime, provision of uniforms and protective clothing and pay periods.

If the contract is not resolved with assistance of a mediator within two sessions, either side can request fact-finding, which consists of hearings and an investigation by an independent party. The parties would then have five days after receiving the fact-finding report to conclude negotiations before the report was made public.

Thirty days after the report was made public, OSEA could call a strike with ten days notice.

According to OSEA spokesman Bentley Gilbert, this is unlikely.

The local "agency" contract only effects University employees. The central contract protecting OSEA members statewide expires July 1, 1977. Negotiations for that contract will begin soon, according to Gilbert.



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