

Students insist on info disclosure

By BRENDA TABOR
Of the Emerald

A recently completed student information bill of rights proposal could have prevented the suit against Umpqua Community College, according to Mark Cogan, ASUO vice-president. The proposal would give students legal recourse against universities by requiring full disclosure of services students can expect from post-secondary state-supported institutions. It stipulates that non-fulfillment of disclosed information constitutes cause for legal action by the aggrieved student.

Disclosure of information on education services would constitute a legal contract between student and institution and specify exactly what a student can expect from an institution.

The proposal was drafted by Cogan and Kirby Garrett, ASUO legislative assistant. Cogan says the bill was not developed in response to the legal suit a student won against Umpqua Community College. Jim Bernau, a student

working on the proposal, noted that the Umpqua appeal was made on a legal technicality, but did not question the legality of a contract. "We've been developing and talking about it for a month," he says.

Bernau presented a similar proposal to the Educational Coordinating Council (ECC) of the State Board of Higher Education this summer. The ECC decided to develop models rather than draft a bill from the proposal.

ASUO Pres. Jan Oliver has asked that the issue be placed on the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) docket for its Saturday meeting. Cogan says the state board has been established as a target for the student bill of rights within three months. "At that time, we will decide whether to go to the legislature," he explains.

"The biggest fear of people in the state is that an institution could be held liable for providing information," Bernau says. A recent Register-Guard editorial expressed the fear that institutions might

stop issuing catalogs if they were legally bound to provide the services and facilities it describes. "The Register-Guard editorial has no basis in fact," he says. The intent of the bill, Cogan adds, is to require more information from institutions, not stop the flow of information.

According to Bernau, there is already legal precedent for the legislation in Senate Bill 30. That bill added educational consumer protection provisions to the law dealing with private vocational and correspondence programs.

Under current state law, institutions are required to present a fair and impartial view of higher education facilities provided by the state.

Bernau compares that to the private sector. Private industry must follow "truth in advertising" guidelines when issuing their catalogs, Bernau says. If a company provides misleading or inaccurate information, the consumer may sue or take other legal recourse.

The Student Information Bill of

Rights would require disclosure of the job placement record of graduates by discipline, percentage of entering students who complete the program and full qualifications of instructors.

In addition, it would also require release of information on academic support facilities such as libraries, labs and resource centers. Financial stability and history of the institution, transfer capacity of credits earned, a social and economic profile of the student body and a projected total cost of education including housing and foods are some of the information the proposal would require.

It also calls for an establishment of a state funded Educational Consumer Advocacy Office to assist students in using the Student Information Bill of Rights to their advantage. This would allow legal problems to be resolved outside court, in a grievance procedure that would be less expensive and time-consuming than court action, Cogan says.

(Continued on Page 13)

Senate to discuss grading proposal today

The Lamson (D-grade) proposal and several other grading proposals will be the main topics of discussion at today's meeting of the University Senate at 3:30 p.m. in Room 222 of the Law Center.

The Lamson proposal, first introduced last fall by William Lamson, associate professor of education,

calls for introduction of D's and F's under the pass-differentiated grading system, use of an L grade (to indicate "less than satisfactory") under the pass-no pass option and insertion of a rule stipulating that 90 per cent of credit earned at the University must be passed with A, B, C or P.

The Senate also will consider a substitute motion by Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) member Mark Sykes which would eliminate the N grade, the current 85 per cent rule, and introduce an O mark to indicate "no credit awarded." Grades I, W, X, Y and O would not be recorded on trans-

cripts sent outside of the University.

Another proposal scheduled for discussion asks for a return to the use of D's and F's in the pass-differentiated system and the computation of grade point averages.

An amendment allowing instructors to add pluses or minuses to regular grades is scheduled for discussion. Another amendment calling for a notation to be placed next to grades on transcripts indicating the number of students enrolled in the course and the percentage of students who received an equal or better grade also will be discussed.

The Senate, which is composed of both students and faculty, will vote on whether or not to recommend any of the proposals to the General Faculty. The General Faculty, which meets next on Nov. 3, will ultimately decide on the issue.

Rust earns boost in county race

Independent county commissioner candidate Jerry Rust received an important boost in his effort for the Position Three county commissioners seat Tuesday.

Rust's support came from County Commissioner Robert Wood, who announced that he will support Rust over the other two candidates in the race, Andy Maxon, a Republican, and Frank Elliott, the Democratic incumbent commissioner for the position.

Wood said in a press release that Rust did not seek the endorsement, but that his "concern for good government in Lane County prompted the endorsement."

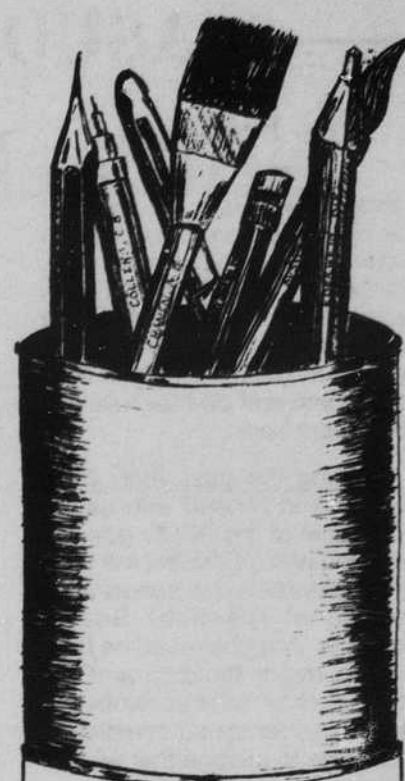
Wood said the persons seeking a spot on the board of commissioners must be "intelligent, hard working, and responsible," and added that of the three persons running, Rust "best exemplifies these qualities."

Wood said that although he differs from Rust on some issues,

he has "a great deal of respect for him."

"His positions on such questions as the use and preservation of land, timber and other resources are the most informed and responsible of the three candidates," he said.

Wood cited Rust's founding of the Hoedads, a reforestation business, as an example of Rust's capability in business as well as his concern for "renewing our most critical economic resource."



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ASUO VOTE

Due to a problem with last week's Voter's Guide this portion is being re-run. To see the other candidates and races please refer to last Wednesday's Emerald.

Junior Class Officers

President

John Mozena

Junior, General Science/Business

Experience—that's the key to success. Whether it's experience on the ballfield or experience in being Junior Class President. For the last couple of years, I've made a point of trying to make our class remembered as more than the grads of '78. For example, we left our marks on the dorms in more ways than one—our rowdiness was only surpassed by our civic pride. The Hamilton Complex Blood Drive sponsored by the Presidents' Counsel which I chaired proved to be a great success. The Greeks and the dorms as well as the public made it the most successful

project ever undertaken by the dorms.

After being appointed Junior Class President last spring, I started the wheels in motion in making our class one of the most memorable ones ever. The Junior Class is responsible for Parents' Weekend as well as any other activity they wish to implement. After talking to University Relations and the Mothers Club as well as many others, I thought it would be a great idea to start a Junior Class Counsel. This Counsel will get everyone involved that would like to see the success of their class. I feel that the Counsel and the class, under the leadership of myself can take the ball and run with it.

Randy Ohlendorf

Junior, Business

The Jr. class deserves someone who can ably represent

the needs of the Jr. class. I will work to make sure that Juniors are involved in any decision making that affects us. The Junior class is responsible for planning parents weekend and we will make every effort to have a parents weekend that will make you proud to bring your parents to the University.

Vice-president

Bill Falk

Junior, Business

I'm running for office to make sure the Jr. class puts on a parents weekend that will bring more parents back to the university than ever before. Next spring we will have the most exciting parents weekend yet.

ASUO GENERAL ELECTION

Wed. and Thurs. Oct. 27 & 28