

State Board to request aid for athletics

By BRENDA TABOR
Of the Emerald

Students may lose control of an integral part of their incidental fees as the result of State Board of Higher Education approval Friday of legislation designed to provide state support for non-revenue producing sports.

The proposal would remove the portion of student incidental fees that support athletics from the jurisdiction of the Incidental Fee Committee and designate it as an athletic activity fee.

Removing an athletic fee from incidental fees is strategy for another part of the proposal that requests the Legislature to allocate nearly \$1 million from the General Fund to support non-revenue producing intercollegiate athletics. According to that definition, all sports except basketball and football qualify.

The \$986,480 allocation being requested by the State Board is based on \$10 per student per year to subsidize women's and non-revenue producing sports. The proposal would also freeze existing student fees used to support athletic programs, but the student share could be increased with the State Board's approval.

Chancellor Roy Lieuallen said the "move



Legislative Issues

is suggested so the Legislature can be assured the new subsidy would not replace student support of the sports program."

"The students feel threatened the incidental fee process is being undermined," said ASUO Pres. Jan Oliver. Her comments were echoed by board member Valerie McIntyre.

Board member Ed Harms contended that removing the athletic fee from student funds also removes the ability of students to remove that funding.

But currently, students may only reduce funding by 10 per cent per year and may not make the reduction in consecutive years.

"It would take 10 years to completely remove athletic funding through the incidental fee process," Oliver told the board. "Student enthusiasm for such a move probably wouldn't last 10 years."

Board member Robert Ingalls said "We would see the demise of non-revenue producing sports and women's sports without the bill."

But Mark Cogan, ASUO vice-president for legislative affairs, questioned the beneficiary of the subsidy. "Presently, revenue-producing sports make about \$400,000 per year available to non-revenue producing sports," he said. "There is nothing in that proposal to make sure the revenue producing sports maintain that subsidy."

"The actual beneficiary will be major sports," he said, "not minor sports." He said the board is glossing over this issue, one that was raised earlier by some members.

The board voted to ask the governor's permission to seek a nearly \$1 million subsidy from the Legislature. Previously, board requests have gone directly to the Legislature.

"The governor has made it clear that additions in one place cause dislocations in another place," Lieuallen told the board. Gov. Bob Straub has directed that he be given the chance to veto any requests not included in his budget in advance.

Cogan questioned how the \$1 million General Fund request would fare with other requests in the Legislature. Cogan asked that the athletic fee proposal be placed at a priority below the State Board's budget and the day care proposal to avoid confusion before the Ways and Means Committee.

Day care legislation passes first hurdle

By KEVIN RASMUSEN
Of the Emerald

Leaving administrative detail unresolved, the State Board of Higher Education decided Friday to endorse "the concept" of providing additional day care for post-secondary student parents.

During a meeting at Portland State University, the board did not require testimony from either ASUO representatives Bob Naegler or Jan Oliver who attended the meeting planning to speak in favor of day care, but instead the board passed the proposal with only a few comments among themselves.

Board member Jonathan Ater

said, "We're merely endorsing the concept" that day care costs are "a major economic barrier for many prospective students," and that eligibility in the existing day care system should be expanded.

None of the specific details were discussed at the meeting, such as actual funds, or whether the Oregon State Scholarship Commission (OSSC) or the Children's Services Division should administer the program. These specifics will be decided by the Oregon State Legislature.

"Our job is not to speculate on the ideal system, but to adopt the concept," Ater said.

This endorsed proposal could

potentially involve \$3.75 million so community college students as well as freshmen, sophomores and graduate students in four-year programs can benefit from day care. Under SB 389, according to board member Valerie McIntyre, current day care aid is limited to two years as part of a financial aid package.

Robert Ingalls, another board member, expressed concern about "too many unanswered questions." He called the suggestion for the OSSC to administer additional funds "irresponsible. It would involve creating a whole new bureaucracy," he said, and added he questioned the success

of present campus day care. Ingalls said the funding recommendation itself was a figure "picked out of the air."

Naegler responded to Ingalls' comments, saying, "Ingalls is certainly not known as a liberal member of the board, and it is not surprising that he doesn't support the concept of day care, let alone the specific provisions of the bill we're proposing."

He added the appropriations figure was not arrived at by students alone. "Students and staff from three state agencies worked on the figure."

Board member Loran Stewart said, preceding passage of the

proposal, "if we go on record as approving this, then there may be cut-backs in funding elsewhere."

Chancellor Roy Lieuallen agreed, saying Gov. Bob Straub's budget is a balanced one. "Additions in the budget in one place mean cuts elsewhere," he said.

But Mark Cogan, ASUO vice-president for state affairs, in his testimony before the board regarding the funding of intercollegiate athletics, indicated that funding for day care should take precedence.

Also approved at the board meeting was the expenditure limitation authorized by the State Emergency Board.

Group eyes day care strategy

Supporters of Senate Bill 389 — the \$3.75 million student-parent day care bill — met at the EMU Thursday night to organize and discuss strategy for gaining the bill's passage in the state Legislature.

Rep. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, a co-sponsor of the bill, told the gathering of approximately forty people their help would be needed in two ways: To begin personal communication with individual legislators and to testify before legislative committees that will consider the bill.

Burrows emphasized that a majority of proposed legislation is killed in committee rather than in floor action, thus committee testimony is crucial. She urged student-parents to be prepared to relate their own experiences in letters to legislators and in committee testimony.

"At committee hearings, personal testimony can be much more effective than discussion of facts and figures."

Burrows said one advantage the bill supporters have is Jan Oliver — the ASUO president is an example of a person whose education depends on the passage of this bill.

At a press conference Wednesday, Oliver, a mother of three children, said, "Without this bill, I won't be able to attend school next year."

ASUO staffer Bob Naegler and Child Care and Development Center staffers Cathy Lumas and Michelle Katz outlined various projects that will be used to gain support for the bill. Besides letter writing and committee testimony, endorsements will be sought from campus and community groups who would have an interest in the legislation. Other projects will include providing current information on the bill's status to child care organizations and the news media. Written testimony from parents who would be directly affected by the bill will also be collected.

Naegler said someone will be hired to work full-time in Salem to coordinate activities of interested groups from throughout the state.



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