

Free state housing retained for officials

By LORI PETERSON
Of the Emerald

A State Board of Higher Education Committee endorsed rent-free housing last week for eight university presidents and the chancellor of the State System of Higher Education.

During a meeting Friday at Portland State University, the Committee on Finance, Administration and Physical Plant voted unanimously to recommend to the full board to retain the policy of providing housing for the state's chief public college administrators.

The full board will consider the issue at the next meeting, scheduled for March 25.

The housing issue was initially investigated by the governor's Task Force on State Provided Housing after a recommendation by Larry Sprecher, director of the Department of General Services.

Sprecher was appointed as chair of the governor's task force and was asked to carry out the investigation after the Oregon

Statesman published a series of in-depth articles outlining the issue last November.

Sprecher said he doesn't know what started the series in the paper, but "it has resulted in a lot of improvements."

For 30 years the State Board has required the chancellor and presidents of state system colleges to reside in state-owned or approved housing. The requirement is necessary, they say, because the administrators are expected to host visiting dignitaries or sponsor entertainment as part of their official duties.

The report to the committee said the vast majority of four-year colleges and universities in the United States provide residences for their institutional heads.

In Oregon alone, presidents of Eastern Oregon State College, Oregon College of Education, Oregon State University, Southern Oregon State College, University of Oregon and Portland State University have state-provided houses.



Photo by Perry Gaskill

On this campus, University Pres. William Boyd resides in a house appraised between \$65,000 to \$80,000 while Chancellor Roy Lieuallen lives in a state-provided residence estimated to be worth up to \$85,000. These houses are offered as part of their employment contracts.

The State Board is responsible for the utility costs as well as other expenses relating to the maintenance of the houses

furnished to the executives, including telephone service applicable to state business.

The task force has recommended the establishment of a housing committee to assist the Department of General Services in determining policy and establishing allowances for employees in state-provided housing.

The committee on Finance, Administration and Physical Plant unanimously approved continuation of state-provided housing.

Board member Jonathan Ater believes the state-provided housing serves many worthwhile purposes by helping executives fulfill the entertainment responsibilities attached to their jobs. But Ater added, "We ought to see whether we're really meeting our policy of providing suitable housing." He questioned whether two or three of the state provided houses were adequate.

Grads recruited

Volunteers help to combat third world problems

Seniors or graduate students nearing graduation can find out about volunteer work with the Peace Corps or VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) at an information booth Tuesday in the EMU, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Recruiters will also conduct interviews for both agencies Wednesday through Friday by appointment only in the Career Planning and Placement office,

246 Susan Campbell.

"Eugene has probably been the most productive community in Oregon for people who want to get involved in ACTION programs," said Chris Kimble, a volunteer recruiter for ACTION.

ACTION was formed in 1971 to bring together all volunteer citizen programs administered by the federal government.

VISTA volunteers work within

the United States, often in their local community. They usually serve with an existing local gov-

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ernment unit or a civic organization requesting VISTA help.

The volunteers are skilled in areas such as architecture, communication, law, craftwork, business, health or teaching.

Peace Corps volunteers usually work in third world countries combating broad problems such as poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease.

"Typically, our volunteers are

just out of college. For many people, that's their only opportunity to go overseas for a couple years," said Kimble.

Presently there are about 6,000 volunteers now in VISTA and the Peace Corps, Kimble said. "For the last five or six years that figure has remained stable, but it is down from the 14,000 high during the mid to late 1960s," he added.

Former-Pres. Gerald Ford had intended to phase out VISTA in his

proposed budget, Kimble says. "We're looking forward to interesting and positive things happening now that Carter and Mondale are in office," he said.

Both Carter and Mondale promised to re-vitalize the programs during their campaigns last fall.

There is also a new director for ACTION, Samuel Brown. With these changes, Kimble says the next several years may be exciting times for Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers.

Student pleads innocent

Charged with the murder of a 17-year-old classmate, Fredrico Paz, 18, pleaded innocent Monday in Lane County Circuit Court.

Paz, a student in the high school equivalency program (HEP) at the University, is accused of the fatal stabbing of Ricardo U. Villalobos, 17, in the Bean Dormitory Complex on Feb. 12.

Paz is in custody at the Lane County Jail without bail.

EMU Cultural Forum Presents

Yusef Lateef
The Gentle Giant

Wed., March 2

8 p.m. EMU Ballroom

\$4.50 U. of O Students

\$5.50 Non-Students

Tickets Available:
Main Desk,
and Everybody's Records

