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Herrera initiates open-door policy

New ASUO exec says visibility goal

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

ASUO administrations changed hands Monday and newly-elected President Ramon Herrera spent the day talking to students interested in positions in his administration.

Herrera says his first goal is "to make the ASUO visible, to increase student knowledge of what this office is all about." Although "simple," Herrera says he already has several ideas on how to go about increasing that knowledge.

He's re-arranged Suite 4, putting his desk next to the windows that look out on the EMU breezeway. He plans to put large signs over each staff person's desk "so students know who they are and what they do."

Starting tomorrow, the doors to Suite 4 will be pulled open. "A simple thing like that could help create more interest in the ASUO. People see closed doors and don't want to come in," Herrera says.

Herrera is making plans to increase his own visibility as well. In addition to moving his desk near the window, he plans to spend a weekly hour in the SUAB Informa-

tion and Grievance Center in the EMU and act as an orientation aide at registration. By doing those things, he says he'll "be able to talk to students every term about the ASUO, what the office is all about."

He's also encouraging students to drop by during his office hours; "I don't mind being interrupted at any time for anything," Herrera is going to stress that his staff take the same opinion. He hopes "in the long run... maybe we won't have only an eight percent turnout at election."

Applications for positions on Herrera's staff will be taken until Friday at 5 p.m. He's filled one vice-presidential spot, as designated by the constitution, and will hire three more as well as several administrative aides.

Mike Lockwood is Herrera's constitutional vice-president and executive coordinator. Some of Lockwood's duties will include being a "tie-in to SUAB" and producing a list of election guidelines to eliminate confusion next year.

The other three vice-presidential spots include state affairs, administration, and finance and programs. Herrera calls the state affairs opening "the most



Photo by Carolyn Beaver

It's goodbye Gary and hello Ramon. New ASUO president Ramon Herrera takes over the reins from Gary Feldman this week. Herrera is rearranging the ASUO's Suite 4 offices in a symbolic gesture to make student government more accessible to the students.

important position" because the person selected will be the ASUO's legislative coordinator.

The vice-president for administration and finance will be in charge of "dealing with Johnson Hall and providing assistance to programs with budgetary matters," says Herrera.

This year, the person responsi-

ble for acting as liaison between ASUO programs and ASUO administration is an administrative aide. Herrera is elevating that responsibility to a vice-presidential level to show the programs their importance in his administration.

The programs have a tendency "to all kind of drift apart. There's issues each face... but there's no

coordination. The ties from this office to programs are not as strong as they could be," comments Herrera.

Although in the process of writing short job descriptions, Herrera says he wants to leave them as loose as possible so that he and his appointees can determine new areas to explore in their jobs.

Hiring, publication policies questioned Women economists air gripes

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

The University economics department is not only unsupportive of the work women do in non-traditional areas, but that work is negatively evaluated, according to three women economists.

Jan Newton, Julia Friedman and Margaret Simeral recently recounted their experiences as members of the economics faculty and found them to be discouragingly similar.

Newton is presently working for the Lane County Economic Development Council, Friedman teaches one University class and does extensive private research, and Simeral gave notice last week that she will not be re-applying for her assistant professorship after next year.

Newton and Simeral are non-neoclassical economists, while Friedman works within the more traditional theories. She currently specializes in land use and timber-related economics.

The three are the only women to have been hired in any instructional capacity by the department. Recently, three male econometricists, whom the women describe as neo-classicists, were hired for new faculty positions. Friedman reports she was an applicant for the resource economist slot, one which she says she has

self-trained for.

But, qualified though they might be, both Newton and Friedman are graduates of the University department. And they say a departmental rule against hiring its own PhDs has helped force them out, along with "ever-escalating criteria" for publication.

"Each time I brought myself up to the level they said was necessary, the department revised the standard upward," Friedman says. "The (departmental) criterion is unrealistic. The emphasis on research published in a specific place (refereed journals) is misdirected, narrowminded, and in my case, terribly destructive of my sense of perspective and self esteem." Friedman considers herself as good as any resource economists in the country.

Friedman has turned down several jobs, among them offers from Oregon State University and Willamette, because she strongly desired to be "at the forefront of the field" on the University faculty. She says many members of the department encouraged her to continue doing research and apply for the resource economist position.

Newton contends that the department has "a collective inferiority complex" about the quality of its graduates because "they know that they (the grads) don't get training in research."

After receiving her PhD, she taught first as an instructor, then as a visiting professor. But Newton feels she was definitely

discriminated against.

"At the same time as me, they hired a man on a tenure track," Newton says. "Needless to say, I was hired at a lower salary than he was." She adds that the man, Tom Weins, had not yet completed his doctorate and took more than three years to finish it.

She says her promotion to visiting assistant professor came as the result of a Health, Education and Welfare investigation of the University which found that "discrimination existed within the economics department."

Newton adds that Weins "didn't publish anything while he was here," a statement echoed by Simeral. "At the end of my second year as a visitor, they terminated me," Newton says. "What they pointed out in a departmental meeting was that this was a very good way to meet a 12 percent budget cut."

While Newton was terminated, Weins was later put up by the department for promotion to tenure. The faculty personnel committee refused his application, and Weins left the University in 1975.

Though her teaching and service record was quite good, Newton admits that she did not publish much while on the faculty. But she didn't go through a departmental evaluation process, unlike Friedman and Simeral.

"Julia and I are students of a department that did not train us to do research," Newton says. "It's a real Catch-22. They're looking at persons who've had the benefit of faculty support at prestigious schools."

Newton and Friedman learned to do research as a matter of survival. After leaving the University, Newton worked for three years at a federal research outlet at Oregon State University, published a lot, and now has a book awaiting publication "which is a good indication that, given a supportive environment, any one of us is capable of a considerable amount of intellectual research."

"I didn't know how to do research at first," Newton continues. "The department offers no courses in research methodology. I was scrambling to prep for courses — They waited each term to see which courses were over-enrolled and then assigned me to them. I rarely taught the same course twice."

Friedman has occupied several part time positions since 1973. "I'm on the fifth of my visiting professorships," she observes. She has taught most courses "on call," at the last minute when a section was over-enrolled. In spite of the short notice, she consistently ranks among the top half of the departmental teaching evaluations.