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Union returns to bargaining

GTFF strikes out once more



Photos by Keith Allen

Graduate Teaching Fellow Colleen Kelley expressed the mood of about 241 union members Thursday night when, in a second strike vote, the union failed by eight votes to gather the necessary two-thirds support for a strike. Though the vote was close, the union plans to abandon the strike effort and move back to the bargaining table for a final settlement with the University.



By MIKE HOPKINS
Of the Emerald

Strike supporters within the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation failed once again Thursday to ratify a GTFF walkout — this time by eight votes — at the second strike vote meeting in a week.

Bill Ratteree, GTFF vice president and chief negotiator, told the meeting after the vote that the union's negotiating team would return to the bargaining table Tuesday to begin work on finalizing a contract proposal for GTFF members' consideration. If talks go smoothly, Ratteree said, a contract ratification meeting could be held in "a couple of weeks."

Out of 314 votes cast, union leaders counted 241 "yes" votes, 72 ballots marked "no" and one abstention, leaving 59 non-voters. GTFF secretary Jeff Edmundson announced before the vote that the union had gained seven members since the first strike vote meeting last week, bringing the membership total to 373.

Last week's strike vote fell 14 tallies short of passage, and a

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Senate reopens course evaluation debate

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

The University Senate will reopen debate about a proposal to release course evaluations to students when it meets in a special session scheduled today at 3:30 p.m. in Law 129.

"If students are interested in the release of course evaluation information to students and student groups," says Gary McMahon, chairer of the Student University Affairs Board. "Their presence as observers at today's special session of the University Senate could have positive ramifications on the outcome of the deliberations."

At Wednesday's session, two motions to amend current faculty legislation on course evaluation were debated without conclusion.

Harold McLean of the SUAB moved that the issue of student access to course evaluation be resolved first, so the Senate will resume this discussion at today's session before sending its final course evaluation "package" to the University Assembly.

The University Assembly will meet Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in 150 Geology to consider the Senate's recommendations.

Both the University Senate and Assembly have debated release of course evaluations since students were allowed to par-

ticipate in University governance several years ago.

Not all professors are against having course evaluation information released, says Gary McMahon, chairer of the Student University Affairs Board.

Some, however, seem to feel that the information released would be abused by the students, McMahon adds.

"Students and faculty should be advised that though this kind of information is based on personal opinion, if the majority of the statistics are similar, then it becomes a consensus rather than an opinion," says McMahon. "A majority rules out the personal conflicts of individual responses."

McMahon says that this information can be a "valuable tool" for students planning their courses. "It gives them the option of choosing not only the best classes, but the best instructor as well."

Even though the ASUO Course Guide "is an accurate, informative guide for some classes," McMahon says that it does not include the "personal aspects of the instructor" that are revealed through evaluation questions concerning the instructor's ability to communicate, the fairness of the instructor's grading procedures, the instructor's preparation and apparent mastery of the subject, and the overall quality of the instructor's teaching.

McMahon says that the original legislation provides for the release, on a voluntary

basis, of the same kind of information which is covered by the ASUO Course Guide, such as course objectives, textbooks and required readings. It does not provide for student evaluation results.

"The main issue of concern to student observers (at the Senate special session) is the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to release the statistical evaluation information to students," says McMahon.

"The Greenfield-Holbo amendment would take the possibility of that privilege away from students," McMahon adds.

Currently, course evaluation information is used only by the administration for faculty review, tenure and promotion consideration, and other administrative purposes, says McMahon, and by the faculty for review of the success of their own teaching methods.

"This is only one of the many issues the SUAB is supporting the GTFF in their efforts towards a fair contract, investigating the possibilities of a campus tavern, pre-registration and a review of Financial Aid procedures.

"Simplistically, we are the legislative branch of the ASUO," says McMahon. He urges interested students to come to the SUAB office in suite 4 of the EMU to talk with their Senate representatives about student concerns.

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today

Former Pres. Gerald Ford stopped in Eugene Thursday to eat breakfast and boost Fourth Congressional District Republican candidate Jerry Lausmann's campaign. **See Page 6.**

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis also was in town to lecture on how far the First Amendment should go toward protecting a reporter. **See Page 10.**

Polls can make or break a politician's election chances. But is an honest poll as rare as an honest politician? **See Page 13.**