

Board strikes merit pay from budget

By SALLY HODGKINSON
of the Emerald

'Poor' SUAB effort faces review

Unless the poor track record of the Student University Affairs Board improves by the end of the school year, SUAB Chairer Gary McMahon says he will recommend that the ASUO re-evaluate the board.

"I hope I can improve what we have," he says. "If that doesn't work by the end of the year, then I think it's time for everyone in the ASUO to sit down and review SUAB in depth to see if it really is working."

SUAB recently has been criticized for its work on the student evaluation issue, which came before the University Assembly in December.

"If nothing else happens, at least the people who aren't doing their jobs won't get as much money."

"Unfortunately, the job they did with the course evaluations was not very good," says Jeff Warren, ASUO vice-president for State and Federal Affairs.

But even if they had done a great job, they might have been defeated. I think it would have given more credibility to our legislative effort if a better job had been done," Warren says.

"As far as actually lobbying in the assembly, it's theoretically a good idea," McMahon says. "But with the way the votes went, even if we had lobbied as much as we

could, it wouldn't have been enough to sway the vote."

Disorganization was one main reason for SUAB's poor response to the issue, McMahon says. "That was partly my responsibility as chairperson and partly the fact that we never had a full board."

As part of McMahon's promise for stronger leadership, he wrote a "merit pay" policy into the 1979-80 SUAB budget.

Under McMahon's plan, board members would receive a potential salary of \$500, with the exact amount to be based on "duty performance." Currently, the chairer can freeze all or part of a member's salary if he feels a SUAB member is not doing the job.

This system of "positive reinforcement" may prod the board into doing a better job, he says. "I don't know how it's going to work but I'm optimistic. If nothing else happens, at least the people who aren't doing their jobs won't get as much money."

But apparently SUAB members do not share McMahon's optimism towards the plan, as they voted at an SUAB meeting Wednesday to strike the merit pay plan from the budget.

The plan would cause too much unnecessary work to verify whether or not a member is fulfilling his SUAB duties, says Jim Pasero, the SUAB political science representative.

"I would like to see SUAB do something for this University," he said, adding that verification of duties would take time away from important SUAB work.

SUAB consists of a chairer and 17 members who represent University schools and departments. Members vote in the Univer-



Gary McMahon Emerald photo

sity Senate and the University Assembly.

The board was created in 1974 to replace the ASUO Senate, which made recommendations to the Assembly and the Senate, but did not vote.

Board members are required to attend Senate, SUAB and faculty meetings, to hold five office hours a week and to serve on at least one student-faculty committee.

In the ASUO election last fall, six SUAB positions were open. Since then, one person has dropped out of school and another

was fired for not doing his duties, says McMahon.

Student apathy contributes to the high turnover rate on the board, McMahon says.

"That's one of the things we talk about every year — what we can do to improve voter turnout and applications for positions in student government. There's really not too much you can do," he says.

"It would be nice to have a lot of people in here wanting to work in the issues," Warren says, "but we don't have them."

The idea of student input into University affairs is a good one, says Marshall Wattles, secretary of the faculty assembly. "It's very useful to have a student voice. Whether they have more voice than before, I'm not certain," he says.

SUAB influence on the faculty assembly is hard to judge, says Wattles. "I suppose that when they speak they have as much influence as anyone else does," he says, adding that there hasn't been any significant change in the kinds of things coming before the assembly.

"I think the idea of having students in the assembly is good," McMahon says. "We're lucky in that sense although we really don't have much power."

"It's nice having a voice there even if it's being underutilized," Warren says.

The potential for change to an active SUAB is there, says McMahon, it's just a matter of doing it.

"What the SUAB needs is to be run tighter," he says. "If that comes out with no more results than what the past few years has shown — which isn't a hell of a lot — then it's time to sit down and talk."

"I'm basically an optimist and it takes a lot of negative things for me to lose hope," he adds.

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Rideout

sexual fantasies being brought up in court.

Marcia Morgan, director of the Lane Interagency Rape Team says that the law is a good one and needs to be on the books. She says she hopes people won't view the law as a bad one because of

their feelings about that particular case.

The publicity surrounding the case may make others reluctant to report a similar incident," she said, "but on the whole the publicity has created a new awareness about the problem of rape in marriage."

Though the Rideout case has come to an end the problems of domestic violence and rape have not. Rape is the fastest-growing major crime in the country and the problems of wife and child abuse are barely beginning to be talked about.



Photo by Doug Williams

Shah gets burned

Members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade continued the nationwide sage of anti-shah demonstrations Wednesday by successfully burning the Iranian ruler's effigy on the lawn near Chapman Hall. Campus police broke up the burning but the RCYB plans another demonstration Friday in Portland at 11:30 a.m. to support the militant "Battle of Beverly Hills" two weeks ago. Rides are available by calling 689-7062.

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