

# SUAB plans no evaluation lobby

By SALLY HODGKINSON  
Of the Emerald

Although legislation doesn't prohibit departmental release of evaluations, no student lobbying effort is planned, says Jeff Warren, ASUO vice president for State and Federal Affairs and Gary McMahon, Student University Affairs Board chairer.

"We've been going for the little parts for three or four years now," Warren says. "The time has come to go for the big one."

Departmental release is possible, he says, but he predicts support would be sparse. "Having it done through the Legislature would be more of a service to the students."

Last December, the faculty as-

sembly voted not to consider a proposal that would have specifically allowed student access to evaluation information. The Oregon Student Lobby has since named student access a "priority" issue.

"If you believe they (the evaluations) ought to be opened, it seems the appropriate way to go would be through the Legislature and get them all opened," says Marshall Wattles, the secretary of the faculty assembly.

SUAB hasn't yet considered lobbying efforts to gain access to evaluations, McMahon says.

"It would probably be up to the SUAB to decide whether or not they want to pursue it. It's a possibility. It could have positive ramifications as far as the Legislature is concerned," he says. "It's definitely something that should be

considered."

"Before the ASUO invests all that time and money into lobbying for access, maybe they should see if the students are interested in that issue," says German Prof. Helmut Plant, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations of courses.

If backing exists and students can show the Legislature departmental support, it could help.

According to Warren, Portland State University operated on a policy of voluntary release of evaluation information. Because of OSU lobbying efforts, faculty participa-

tion in the program has dropped from 45 percent to between 10 and 15 percent in order to boycott the idea of open access, he says.

"I think that (attitude) will be very telling to the Legislature. The Legislature really looks down on arrogance."

## Student board sets committee to review members' conduct

By MARY FORAN  
and SALLY HODGKINSON  
Of the Emerald

Amid criticism of SUAB performance, the board has opted for a committee to evaluate performance of the members.

The SUAB defeated a motion Wednesday by chairer Gary McMahon to institute a "merit-pay" system based on job performance.

The purpose of "merit pay" was not to prod members into action, says McMahon, but rather to have a system by which the IFC can keep tabs on what SUAB is doing.

"The IFC wants more control over what people are doing," he says. "It's my job as administrator to do whatever I think will improve the board."

The conduct committee was originally intended to help the chairer administrate merit pay, says McMahon, but SUAB members decided that the committee itself was enough of a restriction.

The conduct committee consists of three board members, rotating each term, who will check to see if members are holding the required number of office hours and attending SUAB, Senate, Assembly and committee meetings, McMahon says.

SUAB members objected Wednesday because McMahon submitted the budget to the IFC without the board's approval.

"We're a legislative body," says Jim Pasero, SUAB political science representative. "I think we should be able to vote on our own budget as legislators do."

McMahon says he realizes that his moral obligation to confer with the board outweighs his legal obligation to write the budget.

Under McMahon's budget proposal, the chairer's monthly salary would be cut by \$10. "The position is overpaid," he says, adding that any budget cuts will help budget approval.

"Cutbacks look good as far as the IFC is concerned," he says.

Harold McLean, SUAB law school representative, says re-

cent ASUO criticism of SUAB's work on the student evaluation issue is unfair.

"At least we got it through the Senate," he says, "which is more than any other SUAB board or University organization has managed to do."

"The real problem is that the ASUO in general has a negative attitude as far as SUAB is concerned," McMahon says.

"If SUAB members were paid by the hour, their stipends would be a lot higher," he says. "At the University, time is very important."

"Our potential is a lot higher. We could go into meetings with more organization, more politically aware."

The SUAB needs to lobby, he adds. "We can go out and try to make people who feel the way we do more vocal. We need to mobilize our side of the argument; go out and actually talk to teachers, department heads and administrators."

The committee will review the SUAB by-laws and specific responsibilities of members within the next few weeks. The main objective is to maintain an open line with the departments and students," McMahon says.

"There has been a lot of improvement in the board, since its institution," McMahon says. "But I would like to see our responsibilities expanded, a little more weight given to our decisions."

McMahon says SUAB has some power in the University Senate but is "too far outnumbered" in the University Assembly.

"On issues that divide students and faculty, that's where we're going to get swamped," he says. "But, I think the board has the potential to sway the Senate and the Assembly. I think the board can do a lot."



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