



Chancellor Roy Lieuallen

Students quiz Lieuallen on evaluation stance

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

Frustration was on the minds and lips of the 11 University students who visited higher education Chancellor Roy Lieuallen Tuesday afternoon in Johnson Hall.

Led by OSU representative Bob Watrus, ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera and ASUO Vice Pres. Jeff Warren, the students challenged Lieuallen to defend himself against accusations that his office is holding up a bill that would release student course evaluations.

Lieuallen asserted that he is not working against the bill and has taken no negative position against it that concerns its substance.

The students said they confronted Lieuallen because of a similar meeting the day before with Senate Pres. Jason Boe, D-Reedsport, who assigned the bill to the Senate Ways and Means Committee saying it might affect either the state budget or the higher education budget.

"Boe suggested we talk to the Department of Higher Education to find out why the bill might have a fiscal impact, and I guess you're first in line,"

Watrus told the chancellor.

"I'm not prepared to report that the bill would have any fiscal impact," Lieuallen told the group. "We are now studying the costs and should have an estimate ready by Thursday."

Watrus complained that earlier estimates of the bill's costing up to \$190,000 have already hurt the bill, and asked why the release of the evaluations would cost any money at all because the information is already being collected.

"We're quite sure that the cost will be significantly less than that \$190,000, but we just don't have a figure ready yet," said Lieuallen. "I can say that the process we are following is a technical job. It will be done objectively," he promised the students.

Lieuallen said the process being used will take the cost of administering the bill's requirements for 9,000-10,000 undergraduate classes and subtract the amount the individual schools now spend collecting course evaluation information.

"Even if we do come up with some cost, I suspect that it could end up being another mandated cost with no additional funds. They've been known to do that before, you know."

Legislators wrangle with students again

The first Senate hearing on HB 2831, the faculty course evaluation proposal, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29.

Even with a subsequent referral to the Ways and Means Committee, an extra barrier some supporters see as a move to kill the bill, the issue is continuing to generate controversy.

Monday, a 20-member delegation of students met at the capitol for a tuition hearing. The meeting ended early and some members set off in search of legislators involved with the course evaluations bill.

David Bussell, a student at Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, called on Sen. Cliff Trow, D-Corvallis, chairer of the Senate Education Committee, which will next consider the bill.

Last session Trow opposed the measure. Bussell wanted to know why.

"I walked into his office and asked him why he is against it," Bussell said. "He answered that it's bad for education."

Bussell claims he asked Trow to explain and was told "I'm not going to argue with you about it. Why don't you

just leave?"

"He was upset," Bussell says. "I think my politeness was offending him."

Trow corroborates most of Bussell's version, but maintains the student was "being argumentative and abrasive. I asked him to leave."

When asked again why the bill is "bad for education," Trow, a professor at Oregon State University, responded, "Look, there's a whole body of opinion on this bill that is very different from the student opinion."

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