

Assembly may hear evaluation question

Records issue still alive

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

With HB 2831, a bill that would release faculty evaluations to the public, dead in the Senate Education Committee, students' plea for release of the evaluations is right back where it began: at the University level.

But this time, student and faculty leaders agree, the release of faculty evaluations is more likely to receive an affirmative nod from the University Assembly.

"These things have to grow and develop," says Journalism Prof. Charles Duncan, who lobbied against HB 2831 on behalf of the University faculty.

Duncan and Stoddard Malarkey, the state system lobbyist and a University English professor, pledge their support to student leaders should a proposal similar to the amended bill come up before the assembly. HB 2831, in its amended form, makes evaluations available in departments and one central location such as the library.

Duncan and Malarkey, as the prime lobbyists against the bill, say they didn't object to the contents of the bill; they thought the issue should be resolved at the University, not the state level.

"Most instructors realize and

understand the value of student evaluations in teaching," Duncan says. "The question is how students and faculty can make the best use of the information."

Jim Bernau, executive director of the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) says although faculty members protested legislative involvement in the issue, HB 2831's history will have a positive effect if the issue is brought before the assembly.

"I think they (faculty) realize that students really haven't been given a fair shake," Bernau says. "Professors will realize that students aren't going to go away on this issue. We're not going to let go and they're going to have to come to grips with that."

ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett says his office will decide this summer whether to push for a proposal similar to the amended HB 2831 or to try to include publication of evaluation results in the proposal.

Bassett says support from Duncan and Malarkey — support that will be lost if the ASUO tries for publication rights — is "good news. That's one thing we'll have to look at when we're deciding which way to go," he adds.

But Jess Barton, chair of the Student University Affairs Board, says he's not sure students are very interested in

the release of evaluations. The 18 student members in SUAB have voting rights in the University Assembly and act as the liaison between the ASUO and faculty.

"Students say they want evaluations but that doesn't mean it's their top priority," says Barton, adding that the decision on whether or not to pursue the issue in the assembly will be taken up when the board meets in the fall.

"I feel that there's no real interest in evaluations by students," Duncan says. "The issue has been almost symbolic and it's become almost an obsession to get it passed."

Bernau says students are interested and notes that the OSL Board of Directors, composed of state-system student body presidents, made HB 2831 a top priority early in the session.

IFC finishes fiscal year

By MARK WILKIE
Of the Emerald

In what members called an "over-long, over-wordy and ridiculously expensive" meeting conducted over the phone via conference call connections in Alaska, New Mexico and Salem, the Incidental Fee Committee finished up business last Thursday in its last meeting of this fiscal year.

The most heated point of discussion was over a mis-communication between the ASUO comptroller and Judy Sanders, the faculty advisor to the ESCAPE program.

Sanders had gone to the comptroller spring term requesting funds to pay for work that was not in the original budget. She said she thought she had been given the money, so she gave the go-ahead for the work to be done.

As it turned out, however, she never went through the right channel and the proper authorization was never given. The money was therefore never officially allocated to ESCAPE.

Sanders admitted her error. "I realize now that we made a mistake... but the work has already been completed and these people deserve to be paid." On the verge of tears she pleaded, "I am the one to blame, but my people are the ones being penalized."

The IFC acknowledged that there was indeed "a moral and legal obligation to pay the people for the work they have done." They agreed to re-allocate the funds for the wages, with the stipulation that the money given to ESCAPE now will come out of its budget for next year.

The committee also voted to grant an additional \$225 to the Native American Student Union (NASU). The money will be used

to purchase books for the minorities section of the University Library.

"These books and the information they provide to the minority students at this University are invaluable and sorely needed," the representative for NASU argued. The committee passed the motion by a vote of 4-1.

In other business, a previous error was corrected and funds were granted to both Food-Op and the EMU board for building renovations.

The next IFC meeting will be held on Friday, July 27th, at 4:30 in Suite 4 of the EMU.

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