

Instructor files grievance fights funding decision

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

The instructor of four American folk music courses filed a grievance Wednesday outlining his displeasure with funding decisions made about his classes by the provost's office.

The target of Paul Halpern's grievance is Robert Albrecht, vice provost for academic affairs. Halpern charges that Albrecht "may have denied funding to one or more of my classes as an act of personal, political retaliation" because of his criticism of Albrecht's management of the Community Education Program earlier this year.

Albrecht is out of town until Aug. 6 and is unavailable for comment.

The grievance also says Albrecht may have been influenced by faculty members from the English and ethnic studies departments who, Halpern claims, have expressed opposition to his courses. In the grievance, Halpern says folklore Prof. Barre Toelken told him that he would "personally complain to Dr. Albrecht and oppose any decision to fund one or more of my courses from the University's budget."

Halpern says Albrecht has put off making a final funding decision about the folk music classes in an attempt to kill the courses without officially denying them funding. Before Albrecht left for his vacation July 18, he sent Halpern a letter asking him to write a proposal describing "how the University could offer your courses on a self-support basis with a credit overlay." Halpern says Albrecht should have known that any such proposal would not have been approved by the business office.

Albrecht's funding decision delay is "irresponsible, inexcusable and illogical," Halpern says, since he and Albrecht repeatedly discussed the funding problems on a number of occasions during the past six months. Halpern adds that the deadline for placing courses in the fall time schedule of classes was July 23.

The only reason he considered offering his classes on a self-support basis was because Albrecht told him that no courses would be funded through the Community Education Program. On July 17, Albrecht promised to fund two rock music courses through the Community Education budget.

Paul Olum, provost and vice president for academic affairs, says the only way the University would offer Halpern's courses is by funding them through the Community Education budget, since self support classes on campus would take away credit hours from other campus courses.

"If the classes are going to be offered at all, we'd prefer to fund them through the Community Education budget," Olum says. "The decision was made (by Albrecht) not to offer his classes. It's not a decision against Paul. If Dr. Albrecht thinks the courses ought to be given, they'd be given."

Albrecht should have consulted with "specialists in the matter under consideration" Oregon Daily Emerald

before making an "academic decision" to fund both of the rock music courses and no folk music classes, Halpern says.

Morette Rider, dean of the music school, says he doesn't feel that Albrecht was obligated to consult with him to make a decision to fund the rock music classes instead of folk music classes. "It's his money," he says, adding that he has no preference to either set of classes.

Rider says he mentioned in a "casual conversation" with Albrecht more than a month ago that if money was available, maybe the rock classes should be funded first because the "potential enrollment" in those classes is higher than for the folk music classes. Rider adds that Albrecht told him at that time there was no money available for either set of classes.

"You can't compare music performance classes to lecture or survey courses," Halpern says. "If the University were to make funding decisions on that

basis, there would be no performance-oriented classes for music majors."

"Why not invite Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead back to Autzen Stadium to teach a three-unit class on the relationship between acid rock music and drugs?" he continues. "We can give everyone there a computer-styled, multiple choice test and generate 120,000 credit hours. I suppose that would please the provost's office."

Halpern says his classes can easily accommodate enough students to make them cost-effective and financially worth the \$1,600 he says it would take to fund two of his three credit courses.

Halpern says he will be satisfied if two of his courses are funded. The grievance is currently resting on Olum's desk; he has 20 working days to respond to the charges. Halpern says he will meet with Albrecht to try to work out a solution to the problem but he adds that he will "take the grievance all the way to the State Board of Higher Education if I have to."

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