

Hiring opens PSSU-faculty rift

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

The temporary appointment of a political science instructor has sparked intense debate, confusion and questions about student participation in departments' personnel decisions.

Last term, the political science faculty vote split between two candidates for a teaching position. However, the four student votes in the faculty body were all cast in favor of one candidate.

Lawrence Pierce, chairer of the department, says he then sent both names to John Baldwin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, with the vote tallies. Baldwin then asked him to select a candidate. Pierce chose the candidate he voted for — the one students didn't choose.

"The student votes were completely disregarded," says Michael Lacey, president of the Political Science Student Union and the political science representative on the Student University Affairs Board.

"That decision was not based on fairness or democratic principles. It was based on what Larry Pierce thought and

he certainly wasn't unbiased. He had the support of half of his faculty and all of the students on one candidate but he chose the other."

Lacey — and other members of the PSSU — aren't upset with the professor who was hired. They see the situation as an attack against student participation.

"This isn't a vendetta against the professor (who was hired)," Lacey says. "It's a question of whether student votes count. The evidence is there. The votes don't count but they should."

Pierce agrees that when it comes to a close decision, student votes don't carry much weight. A majority faculty vote is the criterion used to select a candidate, even if student votes swing the majority the other way as they did this summer.

According to Pierce, departmental policies have developed during the last 12 years that allow students voting membership on various committees including ones that deal with personnel, promotion, tenure and selection of a department chairer. In addition, four students (two undergraduates and two graduates) have voting rights in the political science faculty assembly.

But student participation in the poli-

tical science department was affected last spring when Ben Johnson, sociology department head, tried to alter that department's hiring procedure to remove student participation. According to Pierce, that proposed change — and the reaction to it — prompted a memo from Baldwin asking departments to distinguish between faculty and student votes.

"They (administrators) want to know who the advice is coming from," Pierce says. "He (Baldwin) can take student votes into account if he feels like it."

Baldwin's call for a vote distinction and a memo from the provost's office asking that the departmental votes be recorded on a roll-call basis, is in "conflict with the rules of the department that had been developed during the past 12 years," Pierce says.

To help clarify some of the issues of student involvement in personnel decisions, the political science department has scheduled a meeting for today at 12:30 p.m. in 108 EMU. Paul Olum, vice president for academic affairs, will explain the administration's view; the political science department personnel committee will report on the history of

student participation in personnel decisions at the University; and the PSSU is expected to present its position.

Pierce says he hopes the issue won't "blow up. If that happens, I think students might lose any input they have now."

According to Don Chalmers, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, there is no University regulation that specifically prohibits student input into personnel decisions. Historically, he says, departments have been free to allow direct student participation into personnel decisions.

But now, Chalmers adds, University administrators seem to be shifting away from that historic practice and trying to prevent student input into personnel decisions.

The decision on whether to allow student input into personnel matters should be left up to the faculty or department, not the University, Chalmers says. The University is being "inconsistent" by letting departments have some autonomy but trying to restrict decisions about student participation at the same time, he adds.

(Continued on Page 3A)

County rebuffs PEACE petitioners again

By MARY SPANABEL
Of the Emerald

People Effectively Appealing for Cannabis Equality encountered rejection for the second time when its petition for reduced enforcement of marijuana laws was not accepted by Lane County General Services Tuesday.

"Because we have identified these petitions as being the identical or same petitions that were originally presented and which we found sufficient grounds to reject, I feel I have no alternative but to again reject these petitions, notwithstanding the affidavits that have been presented, basically on the same grounds they were rejected in the first instance," says Don Penfold, director of general services for Lane County.

Kathy Wilson and Lewis Ward, co-directors of PEACE, accompanied by Eugene attorney Stephen Behrends, submitted the petitions with 8,144 signatures and affidavits from most of the people who circulated petitions stating that petition cover sheets were attached when signatures were obtained.

The first petitions were rejected when submitted a few weeks ago because full texts explaining the initiative were not attached.

Despite the fact that full texts were stapled to the signature sheets this

time, Penfold says, "I feel that in order for my decision to be consistent in this matter that I have to maintain the same position at this time that I have previously maintained."

"If they had been new petitions with new signatures it would have made a difference," Penfold says. He suggests that the sponsors of the petition go to court if they disagree with his decision.

"It is our position that the petitions now are in proper form and there's no provision for them to be voided permanently," says Behrends.

"There's evidence that indicates that they were circulated with petitions attached. The petitions are attached now and we feel that, since they are in proper form now, they should have been accepted by Mr. Penfold. And, since they are not, we are going to take the matter to the courts and file a writ of mandamus request in the near future," he says.

Penfold rejected the petition after he, along with Ralph Hoehney, elections division manager, and David Spriggs, assistant manager of elections division, examined the petition signatures and the affidavits in the presence of the media.

The petition proposed elimination of funds used for law enforcement against cultivation of marijuana for personal use.



Photo by Steve Dykes

Don Penfold explains Lane County's second refusal of PEACE's marijuana decriminalization petitions to PEACE member Kathy Wilson and Eugene attorney Stephen Behrends (standing) Tuesday. The petitions would have put a measure on the county ballot to stop funds for enforcement of anti-marijuana laws.

today

The University has proposed two more work-load contract provisions to the GTFF. The six-month negotiations may be coming to an end; GTFF executives tentatively accepted one of them Tuesday night. See Page 3A.

In the world of high fashion running, Yegbert Gaines is a definite loser. But with people like the well-dressed Horace Houndstooth about, Yegbert has a hard time convincing himself that beautiful sweatsuits aren't important. See Pages 4-5B.

Sixty five Eugeneans have undergone nonviolent civil-disobedience training in preparation for upcoming demonstrations in Bangor, Wash. The dispute is over Trident nuclear weapons, which will be stored in Bangor. See Page 11A.