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Photo by Steve Dykes

Paul Olum (standing, far right) spoke to a group of students opposed to CIA recruiters' presence on campus Tuesday.

Protesters score zero in recruiting dispute

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

The CIA is allowed to recruit at the Career Planning and Placement Office because of the University's policy of an "open campus," a University official told protesters Tuesday.

Paul Olum, vice president for academic affairs, explained the University's policy on recruiters to a group of about 20 students protesting the Tuesday visit of CIA recruiters.

"I understand your position very well," Olum said. "I don't like them (CIA recruiters) any more than you. I'm really very much on your side. But you're proposing that we no longer have an open campus."

At 1 p.m. the group marched to the CPP office in Susan Campbell Hall where the recruiters interviewed students interested in employment with the CIA. According to CCP director Neil Murray, the recruiters arrived at 8:30 a.m., interviewed a few students, and left by 11 a.m.

The protesters moved from CPP to the president's office in Johnson Hall. University Pres. William Boyd was out of the office, so Olum filled in.

"The purpose of the career office is not to provide services to recruiters, it's to provide services to students," Olum said.

Students asked if there is a system that decides who can be on campus. When Olum said no, referring to an administrative memo on the campus' open-recruiter policy, students asked him if there is any way that policy can be changed to prohibit CIA, FBI and military recruiters from campus.

"I'm perfectly willing to bring up a discussion on whether or not this policy should be changed," Olum said, adding he predicts if the University reviews the policy, it will reaffirm the open-campus system.

"Because we're public we can't keep people off campus," Olum said. "We're bound somewhat by legal, not moral, guidelines."

"The problems aren't simple," Olum said. "The moment one starts to control, everyone has someone they want banned. Freedom to tolerate even what

we don't like is better than censorship."

"It's pretty hypocritical to say freedom of speech allows the CIA to be here," one student said.

A student noted the University doesn't let everyone schedule an event on campus — a campus organization must sponsor an event.

Olum said he would "fight to the death" to give students the right to protest, picket and distribute leaflets on campus. "But you've got to keep it in hand," he warned. "If you block the door, you're in trouble."

Vice pres. Mohatt resigns

By MARK MATASSA
Of the Emerald

Dennis Mohatt, the ASUO vice president for administration and finance, resigned his position Tuesday, saying he is under too much stress to do an effective job.

He blamed the stress on personal problems and disagreement with the current ASUO administration. "It's gotten to be difficult," he said. "It's better for my mental health if I resign."

Mohatt said he considered resigning several times earlier in the year but didn't because he felt his voice of dissent was needed in Suite 4. But he says that voice of dissent is costing him his educational and personal satisfaction, and it isn't worth it.

"I just can't handle the bullshit anymore," he said. "Everyday I'm asked to defend policies I can't defend and I'm just sick of it. You know when the shit's

up to my ears, other people are breathing it."

Mohatt refused to attack ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett's administration by name, however. "I would rather not make any comments that would endanger the fragile solidarity of the ASUO administration," he said.

If Mohatt's feelings had come at another part of the fiscal year, he would have taken a leave of absence to sort things out, he said. But with the Incidental Fee Committee now in the middle of the budgeting process, he said the ASUO needs a dedicated vice president of administration and finance working.

Mohatt said he will continue working temporarily to help with "a smooth and speedy transition period."

"My education is still the most important thing to me," he concluded. "I've got to think about myself right now."

A student asked if the University would let a mercenary organization looking for people to fight in South Africa recruit on campus if the group was incorporated under Oregon law.

"God, I don't know," Olum said. "If everything was legal I guess we'd be stuck with our open-campus policy and there would be twice as many of you out there protesting."

An attempt to censor organizations from campus could backfire, Olum said, adding that groups such as the protesters could end up being kicked off campus also.

"I'm not certain you can win the battle by starting a blacklist, and yours is a bad blacklist. Even good blacklists turn into bad blacklists if you're not careful."

"There's no 'open marketplace' for genocide," a student said.

"The University's most important purpose is to serve as an open forum for all views," Olum said. "And I believe we'll do everything in our power to keep an open campus."

"The students are not the University. The University is a corporate structure and it would be a mistake for the University to take a political stand on issues."

After the confrontation with Olum, the group talked about the meeting outside Johnson Hall.

One protester called Olum's response "predictable" and said the main issue is the CIA recruiters have more influence than groups opposing them.

"We have to keep pushing. It's not equal. We've got to pursue this regardless of whether we can get the policy on recruiters changed."

today

Citing faculty commitment to minorities, law school Dean Chapin Clark discussed academic concerns with minority law students Thursday. See Page 3.

Arguments for and against Pres. Carter's draft registration plans were aired at a forum which drew several hundred people to the EMU Ballroom. See Page 6.

Thursday is Valentine's Day, and local businesses are overflowing with anything and everything shoppers could want to bestow upon their beloved. See Page 10.