

# Students will determine fate of constitutional amendments

University students will decide whether to accept 21 amendments to the ASUO constitution during the primary election today and Thursday.

The amendments, written by ASUO presidential candidate Bruce Mills, represent the first effort to substantially revise the constitution since it was written in 1974. Mills says amendments were written to make the student government more accountable, to eliminate vagueness and to eliminate obsolete articles.

Regarding the accountability issue, Mills says an amendment that would set a time limit for the

ASUO president to fill vacated positions on the constitution committee is typical.

Currently, the constitution says the president must appoint "persons to vacant positions of the constitution committee," but allows the president to take the action on any schedule he desires. Under Mills' proposal, the president would be allowed only one week in which to make the appointments.

Another amendment, which Mills says addresses the issue of constitutional vagueness, would specify that persons desiring the recall of ASUO officers must obtain signatures

from 10 percent of the ASUO's members. Currently, the constitution requires that recall petitions be signed by "10 percent of the electing constituency."

Mills says this could be construed to mean 10 percent of the students voting in a given election, which usually is less than 5 percent of the student body.

Other amendments would eliminate clauses in the constitution that have outlived their usefulness. For instance, Article 18.5 says a new ASUO president "shall be elected in May, 1974, and shall serve until May, 1975."

Another amendment would rewrite a clause that says, "the Incidental Fee Committee shall act on matters only relating to the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees with the single exception of the duties required under Article 9.4."

The IFC has no duties required under Article 9.4.

## OSPIRG hopefuls plan more efficient research

By **STEPHEN KNIGHT**  
Of the Emerald

The six candidates for the six uncontested Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group seats have put aside politics and instead have started making plans to turn OSPIRG into a more efficient campus organization.

And for good reason.

Last term the Incidental Fee Committee said OSPIRG wasn't representing student interests and slashed 75 percent of the group's 1981-82 budget. As a consequence, the candidates — Steve Schneider, Deborah Farrington, Michael Matteucci, David Berns, Paul Nevue and Richard Sontag — were forced to find ways to keep the organization afloat even before they took office.

Sontag says one way to revitalize OSPIRG is to actively seek student support. Before the budget cut, OSPIRG had forgotten it was a student organization and had become "top heavy with staff," Sontag says.

"Now there is a new emphasis on student input and involvement," he adds.

Nevue, a senior majoring in journalism, says another past problem was that the organization had gotten too "cliquish."

"We're now trying to get a broad range of people from varied interests," he says.

Nevue explains impartiality is a major goal of the organization.

"We want to have OSPIRG open to all points of view," he

says. "If people want to come in and do anti-abortion research, they can."

Other changes proposed by the OSPIRG candidates include an emphasis on only local, student-related research projects instead of statewide efforts.

Farrington, a junior majoring in social work, says in the past OSPIRG was involved in issues that didn't necessarily benefit students.

"OSPIRG recently was doing research on environmental things that didn't relate to the student," she says. "Now we're doing projects that affect students directly."

OSPIRG candidates currently are working on a price listing of the various laundromats in the campus area and are studying the draft and low-income housing.

However, Schneider, a senior majoring in history, disagrees with Farrington on what constitutes "student-related" research.

"Student issues should not be confined to the boundaries of the University," he says. "Students are citizens of the state and are affected just as much as anyone else by the decisions made at the county and state level."

Furthermore, Schneider, unlike the other candidates, was displeased with the drastic decrease in IFC funding.

"Some cuts were justified, but not \$30,000 worth," he says.

As a result, the group will find it difficult to coordinate statewide projects, Schneider says.

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