

Olum, ASUO urge students to lobby

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

It's time for University students to lobby for higher education.

That's the message University administrators and the ASUO want to get across to students and their parents.

Although students may not feel their efforts will have an impact on state legislators, University Pres. Paul Olum and ASUO Pres.-elect Rich Wilkins agree students can be effective lobbyists.

"In my conversations with legislators, it's clear that direct contact from students and their families makes a real difference," Olum says.

An Oregon Student Lobby presentation at a Wednesday meeting "really blew away" the

House Ways and Means Committee, Wilkins says.

Curt Simic, vice president for public service, says he would like students to start a letter-writing campaign. Students and their parents could "really make a whale of a difference" by sending a total of 200 letters to each legislator, Simic says.

"A massive letter-writing campaign could definitely have an impact," Wilkins agrees.

But letter writing needs to happen now, Simic says. The Ways and Means Committee continues its budget hearings this week. Several weeks from now may be too late, he says.

Simic says students need to understand that their futures may be at stake. He urges students to "take 10 minutes of your day" to write or call a legislator.

Letters from parents are especially effective, Simic says, because many will come from other parts of the state, convincing legislators that higher education has a broad base of support.

Wilkins and Olum urge students to express their support of the governor's tax package. Wilkins also asks students to contact house and senate revenue committee members and to tell them, "We need to raise additional revenues."

Wilkins suggests that student letters support these OSL stands:

- Maintaining property tax relief at last year's level, instead of increasing relief by \$77 million.

Wilkins says students should explain that they are renters

who are willing to give up or decrease their rebates to help higher education.

- Cutting entire programs — such as duplicate or weak programs — instead of across-the-board cuts.

- Suspending state support for student athletics.

Wilkins maintains this would have a serious impact on Title IX support for women's athletics, and would require a re-adjustment of athletic department funds.

- Eliminating physical education service courses and gym suit service.

Wilkins says letter-writing competitions currently are being organized in the dorms, sororities and fraternities.

A small number of students also are going to Salem to lobby each day, he says, and students interested in going to the Legislature can contact Wilkins about arranging appointments with legislators and transportation.

Students from around the state will attend a rally on Thursday, May 28, at the Capitol. Free buses will leave McArthur Court at 9:00 a.m., Wilkins says.

Below is a listing of the Eugene area legislative representatives and their local addresses:

Sen. Edward Fadeley
260 Sunset Dr.
Eugene 97403

Sen. Ted Kulongoski
1209 Pearl
Eugene 97401

Sen. George Wingard
2323 Fairmont Blvd.
Eugene 97403

Rep. Mary Burrows
255 Spyglass St.
Eugene 97401


Rep. Larry Campbell
2435 Wilson Dr.
Eugene 97405

Rep. Margie Hendriksen
1245 Tyler St.
Eugene 97402

Rep. Grattan Kerans
1015 Willa St.
Eugene 97404

Rep. Vern Meyer
708 Level Ln.
Springfield 97477

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Black student enrollment nearly doubles in college

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twice as many blacks are attending college today as did a decade ago, the Census Bureau reported Sunday.

The new study of school enrollment disclosed that more than a million black students were enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities as of last October.

That's a sharp increase from the 522,000 black college students reported in 1970.

The increases in black enrollment were particularly heavy early in the 1970s, according to the study. Since 1976, the proportion of college students who are black has at least been equal to the proportion of blacks in the college-age population.

Overall, the nation's student population reflected changes in society during the decade, with enrollments declining as the baby boom generation finished school and delayed having children of their own.

Enrollment in private schools remained relatively constant at 11 percent during the decade.

As of last October, national high school enrollment stood at 14.6 million, down 560,000 from 1979 and more than a million fewer than in 1975.

There were about 10 million persons aged 14 to 34 enrolled in colleges in 1980, the report states, a figure that has remained relatively constant since 1976. In addition, there were 1.2 million persons aged 35 and older attending college.


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