

# Bio-dynamics inquiry slowed, cautious

By Debbie Howlett  
Of the Emerald

Nearly two months after allegations were brought forth that a private corporation is operating out of Gerlinger Hall, little progress has been made toward investigation, says Mike Ellis, head of the University physical education department.

"Getting all the ducks in a row is going to take a reasonable amount of time," says Ellis regarding the Bio-Dynamics Research and Development Corporation and its alleged link to the University.

The winter vacation apparently impeded progress and Ellis says the P.E. department is treading cautiously, trying to find workable alternatives.

One alternative is to make Barry Bates, president of Bio-Dynamics, a part-time professor or something similar, Ellis says. But he says that course "is fraught with difficulties."

Last November, at a convocation with students, University law student Ellen Mendoza questioned Olum about the use of the University by Bio-Dynamics. Mendoza said Bio-Dynamics

lists its address as 1200 High St., but that she failed to find them at that address.

After phoning a business number, Mendoza was referred to Professor Barry Bates' campus number. She charged the address was a "front" for the business.

Olum told the audience that if Bio-Dynamics "is in fact located in Gerlinger, we will in fact ask them to get out."

Bates admitted at the end of November that he does conduct some of his Bio-Dynamics business from his Gerlinger office. "I find it's more time efficient to use the office," Bates told the Emerald.

More recently Bates said he still uses his secretary for both University business and Bio-Dynamics work.

Bates has been asked to prepare a memo that will "conspicuously separate private business from University affairs," Ellis says.

After receiving the memo from Bates, Ellis says he sent it back to Bates for "some minor changes and revisions."

One thing is apparent—Bates will have to "operate his secretary and mail in a distinctly off-campus location," Ellis says.

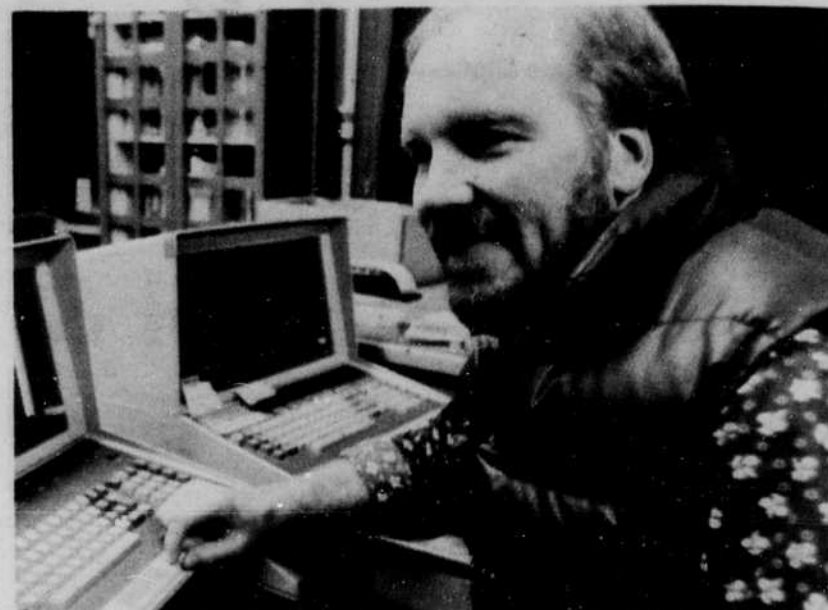


Photo by Mark Pynes

Barry Bates, a physical education professor, also serves as president of Bio-Dynamics. Use of University facilities by the corporation is under investigation although recent substantive progress has included only an exchange of memos.

## Edmunson leaves ASUO post to accept position with law firm

ASUO vice-president of program administration Jim Edmunson announced his resignation Friday, retroactive to Dec. 31. Budget director Alan Contreras was appointed acting vice president by ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins.

Edmunson, a second year law student, says he resigned because he has been hired as a clerk at an area law firm.

"It's about twice the money, and the experience is essential," he said about his new position.

Edmunson, who says he will remain involved in the Student Bar Association and Oregon Daily Emerald board of directors, explains the resignation is not a political shake-up and that he would not have resigned if he didn't believe the office would be left in good hands.

"I feel good about how things are here," he said at the ASUO executive office, adding that most of the substantive work of his office for the year is already completed.

"When you've got a guy like Alan, it's easy to resign. In my own mind, I can't imagine anyone more qualified," Edmunson said of the temporary appointment of Contreras.

"I told him he'd be stupid not to take the job," Wilkins says referring to his reaction to Edmunson's decision.

The resignation was not political and Contreras will be the most likely successor, Wilkins says.

The resignation will "cause us some problems" and "put us behind a little bit," he says, but adds, "I'm confident we're still on top of the ball."

Edmunson has assured him he will spend the necessary transition time with the new vice president, Wilkins says.

"I'm not going to do anything outrageously different from what Jim was doing," Contreras says.

Contreras says he still will be "heavily involved in the budgeting process" and that his "inclination is to not refill the budget director position."

In that case, he would want to increase the salaries and workloads of his current assistants, Carolyn Harmon and Kenmar Bual, he says.

A final decision will be made this week as soon as hiring procedures are checked and other necessary steps are taken, Wilkins says.

## Bio-Dynamics rated 1 of state's 10 'hottest'

Among the ten "hottest" Oregon companies listed in the most recent issue of "Oregon" magazine, is the name of a rising Eugene company — Bio-Dynamics Research and Development Corporation. The firm is the brainchild of University professor Barry Bates and four partners.

Mentioned in the same article with Nike Inc. and Payless Drugstores, Bio-Dynamics is considered a heavyweight contender among thriving Oregon businesses.

Bates and Bio-Dynamics has been involved with a number of firms that manufacture running equipment since their inception. Companies such as Osaga and Nike utilize Bates' bio-mechanical engineering.

Bates defines his work at the University and its related impact on the Bio-Dynamics business as being among the most prestigious in the country.

"Penn State is the definitive number one," says Bates, "but we're battling for two-ish."

Along with his University work, Bates says that he has accomplished as much, if not more, in the private sector.

After securing a contract with the Texas Rangers baseball team, Bio-Dynamics is going after more "big fish," such as NASA. Bio-Dynamics believes they have the expertise to redesign a space suit.

The company's marketing vice president, Bob Ellis says, "The future is unlimited, we could easily be a million-dollar business."

Bio-Dynamics started as a \$5,000 investment only 10 months ago. The company now operates with \$300,000 worth of equipment and hopes to do a quarter of a million dollars in business this year.

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