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# RICH

## He feels student

Involving the ASUO student government in a wide variety of decision-making processes on campus was the biggest accomplishment of his administration, Pres. Rich Wilkins says as his term draws to a close.

Wilkins, who effectively becomes a "lame duck" president later this month, reflected on his term of office earlier this week just before flying to a national student government conference at which he will tell fellow students how it's done in Eugene, Oregon.

"On a philosophical level... we have gotten ourselves in most of the decision making processes that happen," Wilkins says. "Most student governments are just trying to get their voices heard."

Wilkins, whose administration has either finished or at least started nearly all of his administration's projects, wheeled off a list of accomplishments and scoffed at the idea that student governments can't have an effect.

"One of the major accomplishments has been the legislative program," he says, adding that the ASUO's efforts helped activate the Oregon Student Lobby in protesting budget cuts to higher education. "We got a lot of people involved," Wilkins says.

A University Student Political Action Committee, consisting of 11 students not involved with the ASUO government, was initiated from his office to be a "network to get information out," he says.

"As far as I can tell, it's the only

student political action committee in the country," Wilkins says.

He says that because of the current economic situation and his own interest in politics, political involvement didn't stop with lobbying and USPAC.

The ASUO set voter registration as a primary goal in efforts to involve students in the world around them and registered over 1,000 students at various events, Wilkins says.

The National Security Conference, held Feb. 25-27, brought together some of the foremost experts on the subject and enjoyed respectable attendance by University students, he says.

"We put a Title IX symposium on when Reagan was cutting Title IX," Wilkins says, adding that he believes it was the only such symposium on the West Coast during Title IX Week.

The president is also proud of a forum on financial aid, which he says was unique in the state. Other state schools only distributed literature about the current situation.

Just last weekend, efforts by the ASUO resulted in a resolution being approved at the state Democratic convention calling for student control of incidental fees, Wilkins says.

"That's never happened before," he says. "That's good."

"We've initiated more programs than any time in the past," Wilkins says as he points out other accomplishments, plans, and ideas of the administration.



# WILKINS

## government works

sident for University and academic affairs, in proposing deadweek legislation, and for working more closely with the Student University Affairs Board, which sponsored it in the Faculty Senate.

Wilkins says he doesn't know whether the effects of his administration will still be felt five years from now, but points to new programs and praises his staff.

"I couldn't be more happy with the work people have done around the office," he says.

The deciding factor for the performance of a student government, he says, is how much influence an administration gains or loses — Wilkins believes this administration gained the University's student government such influence.

"There's a lot we've done. There's always probably more than you can do," he says.

"This year was a tough year for the University... I think we responded very well to the tough situation," Wilkins says.

"When this year's over I will be glad to move on," he says. "I don't envy that person (his successor) at all" although being president is a "hell of an experience."

The biggest benefit, besides acquiring knowledge and developing skills, of his year in office?

"The contacts I've made." If he had it to do over again, Wilkins said he would organize the staff differently, be more organized, and improve communication, both inside and outside the office.

Wilkins says his administration should also be noted for the efforts of Kathy Stebner, ASUO vice pre-

sident for University and academic affairs, in proposing deadweek legislation, and for working more closely with the Student University Affairs Board, which sponsored it in the Faculty Senate.

Wilkins' vice-presidents differ with their boss's perception of the most significant accomplishments. The most significant achievement of all student government bodies this year was the number of written policies established by the Incidental Fee Committee, says Alan Contreras, ASUO vice president of program administration.

Otherwise, there was no single program or event that stands out above the rest, he says.

"If the ASUO is functioning how it should, there shouldn't be one single thing," Contreras says.

Gus Palmitessa, ASUO executive vice president, says the National Security Conference was the administration's best achievement.

The conference showed the community that the ASUO could organize a large scale conference, get important speakers, conduct it in a professional way, and even "make a few dollars," he says.

In other matters, he says that the ASUO was "handicapped by a lack of money" but "worked with programs as close as we could so they could meet their goals," he says.

"I was pleased with what my office accomplished," says John Stewart, ASUO vice president for state and public affairs. "I felt that he (Wilkins) gave me a lot of room to move around, which was really beneficial."

"Overall, I think a lot more could have been done."

By Dane Claussen

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