

Mandatory retirement age for professors discussed

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

Academic professors would retire at about the same time even if the mandatory retirement age were lifted, said Jeanne Bader, director of the Center for Gerontology, at a meeting Saturday.

"There is no evidence large numbers of faculty will remain on the job," she told some 50 people who attended the meeting sponsored by the American Association of University Professors.

Bader was joined by Joanne Carlson, acting vice provost for academic affairs, James McGoffin, director of the Public Employees Retirement Board, and Lester Stickler, professor of Business Administration at Oregon State University, in a panel discussion focusing on "Uncapping Mandatory Retirement: Implications for Older and Younger Faculty."

Stickler says lifting the mandatory retirement age makes some people feel "we've got to move the old geezers out." He says people are afraid institutions will be "stuck with the old folks."

The present federal mandatory retirement age is 70. On July 1, the mandatory retirement age for tenured faculty changed from age 65 to age 70 when the 1978 amendments to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act expired.

Bader said the AAUP unfortunately associates tenure with mandatory retirement and assumes the whole tenure system would be ruined by lifting the mandatory retirement age. The AAUP presumes some faculty would remain teaching longer which would decrease openings, according to Bader.

Encouraging early retirement allows an institution more flexibility in staffing and in dealing with budget problems, said Carlson. She opposed lifting the mandatory retirement age to 70.

Carlson said the incentive program sponsored by the University promotes the advantages of early retirement. The system allows professors between the ages of 55 and 65 to opt for a plan allowing a 6 percent increase in salary and giving them three years of guaranteed full-time work, followed by five years of part-time work.

"The incentive plan provides the institution with flexibility and allows us to bring in younger faculty," said Carlson.

Both Bader and McGoffin said faculty should be subject to the same performance reviews as employees in other businesses.

"The thing (performance reviews) we teach others to do and get rich at we are unwilling to have people do to ourselves," said Bader.

She insisted tenure would not necessarily be affected by performance reviews.

Make your own kind of movie

By Lisa Erb
Of the Emerald

Can't find your niche as a star on a prime-time situation comedy? Need a chance to express your views on 12th-century Zen or finally tell some of those jokes you've been saving?

You might make your debut with Channel 11 Community Television, on Group W Cable TV.

Recording a show at the Community Access Center studio is free for all interested groups and individuals. But one must either provide a "3/4 inch Umatic or 1/2 inch VHS format" videotape or purchase one from CAC for \$11.

First-time CAC users are required to attend a Monday evening producer-orientation workshop that discusses the available facilities and services and methods of organizing and planning a production.

Operating since September, the community station also offers a variety of opportunities to the public.

"People can train in the use of video and television production equipment, and they can have access to equipment and expertise in producing their own public access TV show," says Steve Barrett, chair of the station's board of directors. "It's an opportunity for people not only to express themselves, but to hear other voices in the community."

Weekly certification classes in general production and in operation of broadcasting

equipment used by the center are available to CAC members. A regular membership, which covers the cost of those classes is \$12 a year.

Currently, the station is refining its television studio, enlarging its program offering, developing its training capabilities and working with volunteers on programming, Barrett says.

Until now, equipment has been borrowed, but Barrett expects station-owned equipment to arrive within the next two to three weeks.

The station's staff hopes for a good deal of interaction with cable subscribers and local residents, he says.

"If people want to be involved, they should drop in at the center weekday evenings or show up at the regular board meetings on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.," he says.

To attract public interest, staff members plan to expand the schedule of shows and offer varied membership categories, he says. CAC plans a grand opening soon, he says.

CAC is located at 326 W. 12th Ave. and is open from 5 to 10 p.m. weekdays.

The non-commercial station operates within rules set up by its board of directors and the Federal Communications Commission.

Cable 11 broadcasts are programmed from 6 to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. Its operating funds come from membership fees and Group W TV.

Its schedule is listed along with most regular television listings for the area.



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