



Fees bills urge student control

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

This is the first in a three-part series examining bills in the Oregon Legislature that will affect higher education.

Proposals in the state Legislature dealing with incidental fees are in limbo after the House Education Committee's work session Tuesday.

The committee tabled the bill sponsored by the Oregon Student Lobby. That bill would give students more control over their student fee dollars by forcing the State Board of Higher Education to hold a hearing when the president of an institution and the student government disagree on a recommendation.

Another student fees bill, introduced by Rep. Dick Springer, would make the payment of incidental fees optional.

The OSL and Springer both want to give students more control over incidental fees, but they are using different means for the same end, says committee Administrator David Gomberg.

Gomberg says the committee will use Springer's bill as the vehicle for all legislation dealing with incidental fees, but he does not think optional fees will be adopted.

The committee came up with amendment concepts that Gomberg and the Legislative Council will draft formally.

Under the concepts, the state board would

establish incidental fees, and the institutions' student governments and presidents would administer them.

The fees could not increase more than 6 percent or decrease more than 10 percent in any year without the president's authority and a majority referendum vote of the students.

If the president and the student government disagree and cannot resolve their differences by June 30 of any given year, then the previous year's budget will be adopted.

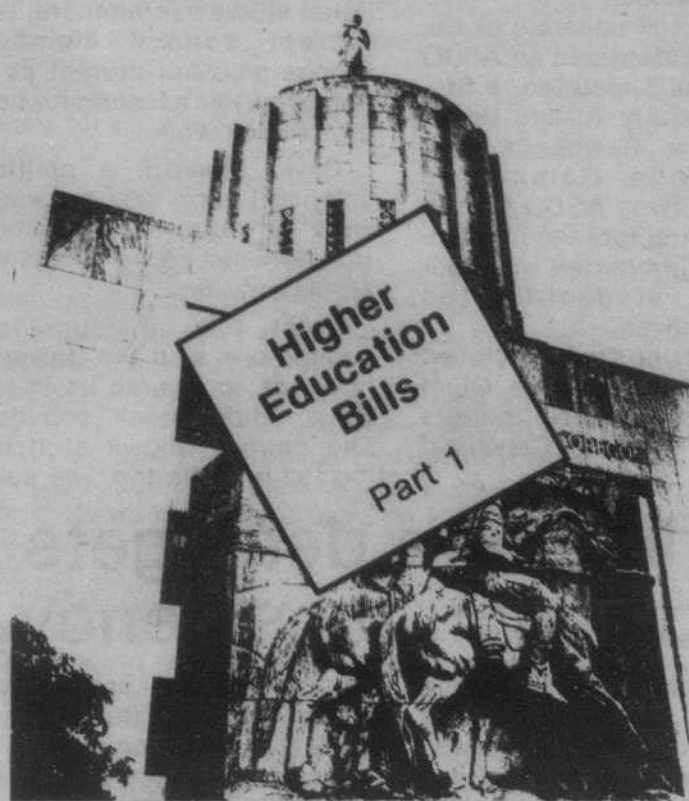
Although OSL Director Bob Watrus said he would have preferred the OSL bill as the amendment vehicle, it is more important that the committee supports the amendments favored by the OSL.

The committee also will try to define incidental fees according to Gomberg. He says the building fee and health center fee create confusion about where they fit into the statute.

Jon Folkestad, one of Springer's legislative interns, says Springer has proposed bill amendments that would define incidental fees as either optional or mandatory.

In his proposal, mandatory fees would include the building fee, health center fee and a student union fee. Optional fees include a program activity fee and an athletic department fee.

Hearings will be held on the amendments after they are formally drafted, Gomberg says.



Washington wins Chicago's mayoral race

CHICAGO (AP) — Rep. Harold Washington won election as Chicago's first black mayor early Wednesday, riding a huge black turnout and strong Hispanic support to thwart Bernard Epton's bid to become the city's first Republican mayor in half a century.

The 60-year-old, two-term Democratic congressman's victory margin was less than 5 percent of the nearly 1.3 million votes cast in the city's biggest election turnout since the 1944 presidential race.

With 2,793 of 2,914 precincts reported, Washington had 636,136

votes or 51.5 percent, to 595,694 or 48.2 percent for Epton. Socialist Ed Warren had 3,590 votes.

Epton had refused to concede late Tuesday night, claiming he would emerge the victor from a "neck-and-neck" finish.

Board of Elections Commissioners spokesman Tom Leach said the outstanding votes were concentrated in three lakefront wards, where Washington could be expected to do well, and four predominantly black wards of the city.

An estimated 88 percent of the 1.6

million voters had cast ballots, but it appeared the final figure would be somewhat lower. A record 77 percent turned out in the Feb. 22 primary in which Washington narrowly captured the Democratic nomination in a three-way race.

Washington benefitted Tuesday from an exceptional black turnout, and his campaign manager Al Raby said he was running better than 50 percent among the swing Hispanic voters.

Massive numbers of whites who voted Democratic in the primary switched to Epton. But Washington ran

better among whites than he had in the February primary — up from 6 percent to about 20 percent, according to an Associated Press-WMAQ-TV sampling.

Epton was watching returns in a suite at the downtown Palmer House. With him were his family and Lt. Gov. George Ryan. Spokesman Rick Murray described the mood as "excellent. Everybody up there is smiling."

"We feel good. It looks solid," said Washington, 60, after a deli breakfast in his Hyde Park neighborhood where he voted. "We've been ahead since day one."

Primaries could decide some ASUO races

Elections run today, Thursday

Several races in the ASUO primary elections today and Thursday may be decided without having to narrow the fields for the general elections next week.

Six election booths, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, will be located in front of Gilbert Hall, 150 Geology, Esslinger Hall, the Agate Street bike crossing, the library and on the law school quad.

Students will be required to present their picture identification card and verified paid tuition card to vote. Students may write in candidates for any position.

The primary elections serve to narrow the fields for the general elections. But a few races will be determined during the primaries.

The ASUO presidency (two candidates), the nine Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group board positions (11 candidates) and most Student University Affairs Board positions will be determined during the primaries, says Paul Rudinsky, ASUO executive vice president in charge of the elections.

Candidates for EMU Board, the President's Advisory Council and the

Oregon Daily Emerald board position will be narrowed for the general elections, Rudinsky says.

The Incidental Fee Committee race may not go to the general elections if one more candidate drops from the field.

Brad Gevurtz, a law student; Jodie Carter, a history and political science junior; and Mark Cleveland, a pre-business and political science sophomore; withdrew from the race, which now has 15 candidates vying for the seven committee spots.

The primary elections serve to narrow the IFC field to 14 candidates.

SUAB races for the journalism and telecommunications positions probably will go to the general elections if one of three candidates in each race does not receive 50 percent or more of the vote, Rudinsky says.

Other candidates who withdrew from the elections are Doug Green, an economics sophomore, and John Baier, an accounting and finance junior, for the two business and economics seats. William Wrightsman, an advertising junior, withdrew from the President's Advisory Council race.



ASUO elections kick off today with voter booths located in various locations around campus.

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