

OSPIRG must seek yearly funding vote

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, a student-run consumer lobby group, must seek student funding annually rather than every two years, according to an ASUO Constitution Court ruling Monday.

Because the Oregon State Board of Higher Education requires yearly reassessment of student fees, OSPIRG also must ask students for funds every year, according to the ruling.

The court's opinion, written by chair Alan Contreras after unanimous agreement by the court, overturns a referendum vote by

the student body last spring that established a two-year funding base for OSPIRG.

University students voted last spring to pay \$1 per term for the next two years to fund OSPIRG. Formerly OSPIRG was allocated funds through the Incidental Fee Committee.

"I consider it a victory for student's rights," said University student Richard Burr, who filed the complaint and argued the case based on the intent of the "Clark document."

"This strikes a blow for students who would have otherwise had their rights abridged," Burr said, referring to future students' fee money.

But OSPIRG spokesperson Daniel Malarkey didn't agree.

"It's a blow to the expressed wishes of the student body," Malarkey said, referring to the spring vote which funded OSPIRG for the next two years. "It's highly ironic that a student court has made a decision usurping student's rights."

Burr based his argument against two-year funding on the wording of the "Clark document," which helped establish the Incidental Fee Committee and was instrumental in giving students a voice in determining where their fee money is spent. The document was named for Robert Clark, who was president of the University at the time.

The Court agreed with Burr that the intent of giving student's that voice was based on using an "annual budgeting process."

Burr's second complaint, that OSPIRG violates state regulations regarding student fee money as well as higher education policies about political activity, was not ruled on by the court. Instead, Contreras wrote that the court's jurisdiction did not extend into that area.

Burr's third complaint, that OSPIRG discriminates against participation according to political view, was thrown out.

Whether OSPIRG will appeal the Court's decision is still undecided.

Council returns parking plan to repair shop

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

A standing-room-only crowd waited in the Eugene City Council Chamber Monday night as the council heard two and one-half hours of testimony and then postponed a decision on an appeal of the controversial West University Neighborhood parking plan.

The plan, originally scheduled for implementation Nov. 1, was appealed because the Council had not officially approved its fee structure and boundaries, although it had approved a federal grant to develop some type of parking program.

The proposed plan, if implemented, will limit parking in the area west of the University to two hours for people without permits. Permits will be free for residents and will cost \$17.50 per month for non-residents.

After hearing citizens speak to both sides of the issue raise various questions about the proposed project, the council decided 5-1 that it needed more time to consider the appeal and the plan's fees and boundaries.

The council will reconsider the appeal at its Nov. 9 meeting.

"This meeting tonight is a good thing. We have aired issues that need to be aired," said Emily Schue, council president.

Council member John Ball responded to public testimony criticizing the parking administration staff for not including "affected groups" in its planning process.

"The solution that the staff has come up with at this point probably suffers from a lack of input," Ball said. "The commence-

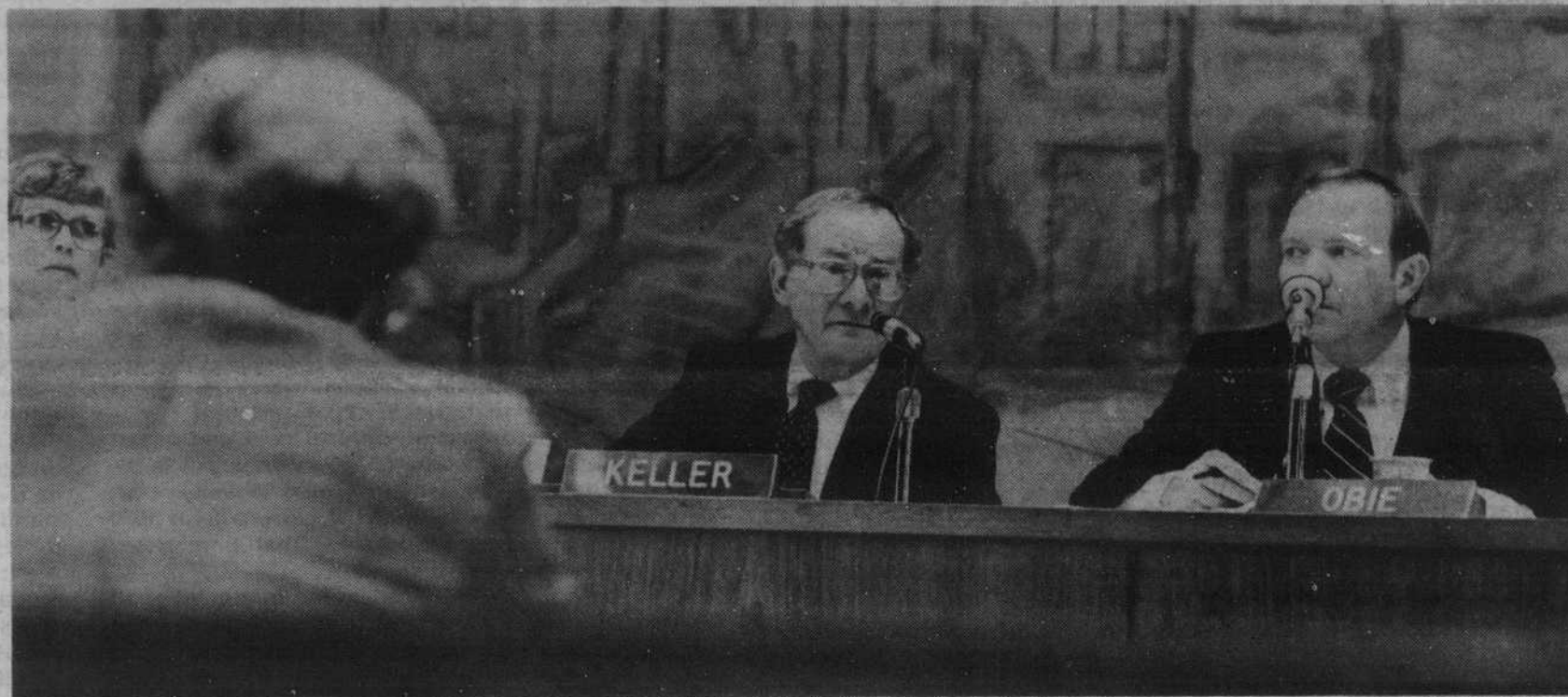


Photo by Brian Erb

The Eugene City Council heard from students and University employees who oppose the controversial West University Neighborhood parking plan. The council postponed action on the plan until their Nov. 9 meeting.

ment of the program should await the inclusion of the employee groups and the student groups that have not been included," he said.

The council also postponed the decision in order to give staff time to answer questions brought up during public testimony.

The council posed questions concerning

the number of permits to be sold compared with the number of available parking spaces.

Students showed up in force — represented by the University office of student advocacy and the University Affairs department — to oppose the plan, which would cost about \$157.50 per academic

year.

"Affected groups were not asked for input. Instead, institution administrators were invited. Administrators don't rely on (the area) for parking. Students and employees do," said Barbara McCarthy, assistant coordinator of the University Affairs office.

Weaver delivers shots at Watt

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

"It is a strange business we're in where a person is rewarded for perpetrating such a fiasco... the biggest in the history of the Northwest."

The words are Oregon Rep. Jim Weaver's, D-Eugene, the person he is referring to is Energy Secretary Don Hodel and the fiasco is WPPSS.

Hodel, whose name is among those being mentioned as a successor to recently resigned Interior Secretary James Watt, presided over the defaulted multiple nuclear power plant project which was set up by the Bonneville Power Administration in 1974.

Weaver was at the Hidden Valley Golf Course in Cottage Grove Monday night to discuss the Oregon Wilderness Act, which he co-authored with fellow Democrats and Oregon

Reps. Les AuCoin and Ron Wyden.

Although the bill will be presented before a Senate subcommittee hearing next week. Monday's discussion and even Weaver's opening remarks inevitably turned to the subject of Watt, who submitted his letter of resignation to Pres. Reagan on Sunday.

In his opening remarks Weaver eulogized Watt.

"It was long past time for him to go and now... the test of the Reagan Administration is in not just replacing him with a good man but with good policies... one from environmental destruction giving away all the public lands to one of what the Interior Secretary should be, a position of trust over the public lands."

Weaver recalled a now famous incident that led to Watt's public image problems. Watt appeared

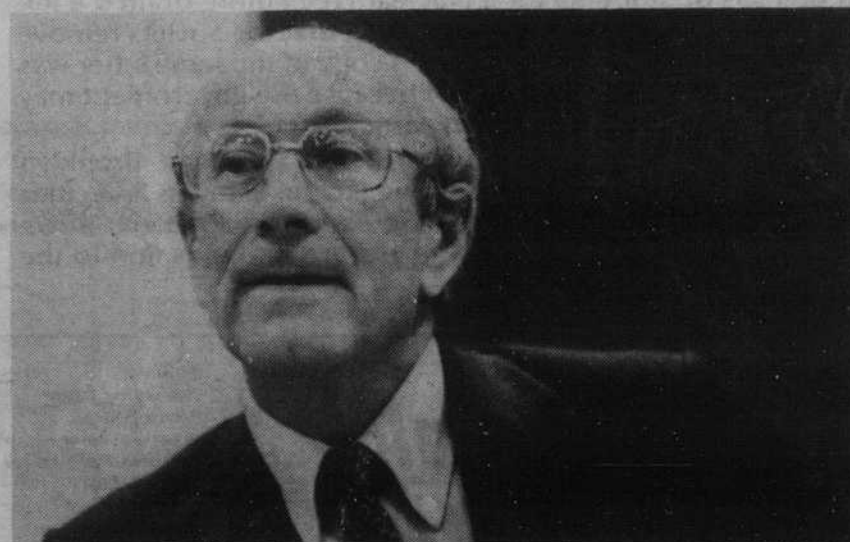
before the House Interior Committee in 1981, during which Weaver asked Watt; "Shouldn't we leave just a barrel or two of oil or a spadeful of minerals for our children and their children?"

"Watt said; 'Yes, Congressman. But I'm not sure how many future generations there are going to be — and the lord may come at any moment.'"

Weaver said Watt was merely the executor of Reagan's policies, that he carried out "exactly what the president wanted to do."

However, Watt "committed a number of serious blunders" that "caused public arousal. So a new man if... quite competent, not so obviously obsessed, might be able to do more harm than Watt did," Weaver said.

Turning to the subject of wilderness, Weaver stressed the importance of maintaining a gene pool from old growth



Jim Weaver

Emerald photo

forests, in case the experiments in hybrid reforestation backfire. He added that the proposed wilderness areas are not suitable for timber harvesting and production.

He also said there would be no loss of jobs affected by the wilderness bill, and that the crunch suffered by the timber

industry is due to national markets such as housing.

There is currently more of a supply than a demand for timber, said Weaver. Right now there is a four-year supply of timber under contract, "16 million board feet sold on the stump, not being harvested," he said.