

ASUO initiates lobby network

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

In an effort "designed to increase students' political power," the ASUO is creating a student lobby network.

ASUO members are asking students to fill out cards containing information on where they are registered to vote and which issues concern them as well as their addresses.

Then during an election year the ASUO can conduct mail-out campaigns to inform voters of candidates' track records on issues of most concern to students, says ASUO Vice-Pres. Kevin Kouns.

The system will tell which congressional and state representative districts the voters live in so information pertinent to only those areas can be distributed.

Creating a powerful voting force is a three-step process, Kouns

says. First is registering people to vote, second is educating voters on issues and third is actually voting.

Students have traditionally done a good job of registering voters, but have been lax about the other two steps, Kouns says.

But the network will go beyond

will increase students' power," Kouns says, because politicians will take note of such a large number of organized voters.

Some 850 cards have been collected so far, Kouns says. Even some students who have not filled out the card have become part of the network.

sealed and mailed.

The ASUO has no knowledge of those students stands on issues but they can still be contacted and informed of candidates' records.

Kouns is quick to point out that the ASUO checked with the postal service and the county elections board and that the same information can be obtained from the county by paying for a list of registered voters. By obtaining the information from the registration cards, the ASUO saves time and money.

"Students can do with the information what they want," says Pat Stuart, ASUO coordinator of state affairs. The intent is to provide information on issues so students can decide for themselves how to vote, she says.

"What this is, is an attempt to organize student lobby efforts at the grassroots level," Kouns says.

'What this is, is an attempt to organize student lobby efforts at the grassroots level'

— Kevin Kouns

the first step and inform voters, giving them more reason to vote, he says.

It will also give students a louder voice — even before a ballot has been cast.

"Just the fact we're doing this

Students who registered to vote during the recent voter registration drive, sponsored by OSPIRG and the ASUO, are also part of the network because their names were placed on network cards before the registration cards were

In University Senate

Vote may diminish student members

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

The size and shape of the Student University Affairs Board will be determined by a faculty vote next month, and student representatives are doing everything they can to make sure the results are in their favor.

At issue are proposed faculty governance rules that would give a great deal of legislative authority to the University Senate, now an advisory-only body. At the same time, SUAB representation would decrease from 18 to eight, while faculty members in the Senate would be cut by four, from 36 to 32.

Only those measures that do not have a two-thirds majority would be referred to the much larger University Assembly. The University president or a group representing 10 percent of the faculty could also initiate measures in the Assembly.

SUAB Chairer Mike Prothe says the new rules would mean less student representation in the University decision-making process.

"That type of representation is just a little too far stretched out and I think our effectiveness will be severely hampered," Prothe says. "We are not trying to cut down the governance proposals. We just believe that we are effective legislators in the Senate."

Journalism Prof. James Lemert, who headed

the task force that proposed the rules, says faculty members are concerned with the amount of power students would have in the smaller Senate.

Some faculty are worried that students may consistently vote in a block, and everything would be appealed to the University Assembly, Lemert says. "There's a real feeling that even eight (SUAB members) is too many," he says.

In addition, Lemert questions whether students would really be losing any power,

'I think our effectiveness will be severely hampered'

— SUAB Chairer Mike Prothe

were the new governance rules adopted.

"So what if you're a third of an inconsequential body. Isn't it better to be a fifth of a more powerful body?"

Still, Lemert is able to sympathize with SUAB's position.

"If I were in their shoes, I'd be doing what they're doing," he says.

What SUAB is doing is conducting a major lobbying and surveying effort among influen-

tial faculty members in the Senate and the Assembly, Prothe says. SUAB members will evaluate their contacts Thursday, after which they will send a letter to all faculty members arguing for the importance of student representation.

Meanwhile, Prothe is hoping a majority of the faculty will agree with him.

"Right now, my feeling is that it's a really close call," he says of the faculty opinion on the issue. "We have always considered ourselves working side by side in the Senate."

Lemert says professors may express agreement with students, but may vote differently in the Assembly Nov. 9.

"It will be interesting to see what happens when they (SUAB members) leave the (professor's) office," Lemert notes.

Ironically, SUAB will not be able to vote on the issue, which Lemert says makes its lobbying efforts even more important.

And SUAB is not unwilling to compromise, Prothe adds. Indeed, he says he is not opposed to a gradual change in the size of faculty and student representation.

"I am not accepting eight students because that is just too drastic a cut," he says. "Give the old-style membership a chance to work in the new system."

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Correction

In the Oregon Daily Emerald article on Monday, Oct. 10, titled "Philippines dilemma," Ed Comstock was quoted as saying Philippines Pres. Marcos imposed marital law in 1968. The imposition of marital law actually occurred in September of 1972.

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