

opinion

Senate should keep town meeting format

The governance proposal before the University Senate is a case of trying to fix something that isn't broken.

The proposal gives the Senate, to be composed of 32 faculty and eight students, the right to make decisions which are now made by the University Assembly.

The proposed shift would change the town meeting format — which the University has had since its inception — to a representative form of government.

What this does is place the power to run this University in the hands of an elite few who are well enough known throughout the University to be elected to the Senate. It cuts out opportunities for faculty members to get involved in the system as much (or as little) as they want.

We have nothing against representative government. But why use it if it is not necessary?

In a nation of 226 million, it would be unfeasible for everyone to be directly involved. But in a University with only about 900 voting faculty members, it is desirable to let everyone who wishes be involved.

Granted, it may be a little cumbersome and take longer to make decisions, but no one has ever claimed democracy is the most efficient form of government. Involving people in the process — hearing diverse views — takes time. But the end result is worth it.

But wait. Proponents of the proposal will point to the fact that anything that a significant number of faculty care about will go to the full assembly. Any motion that does not get a two-thirds majority in the Senate will automatically go before the assembly. Also, the University president or a petition signed by 10 percent of the faculty can force the motion to the floor of the assembly.

But would that ever happen?

According to James Lemert, the chair of the task force that developed the proposal, at universities that have adopted similar proposals no motions have ever been appealed to the whole assembly. Senate members compromise to get a two-thirds agreement.

The new system would streamline the process, cutting out the voices of the new faculty and those who are not in the mainstream of thought. But there is no guarantee it would make it more efficient.

The proposal also cuts the number of students involved in the Senate from 18 to eight. We view this as unacceptable.

Students are the main reason why this University exists and therefore students deserve a strong voice in the government of the University.

Students are admittedly a transitive group — they come and they go. But as elected representatives, Student University Affairs Board members can speak for the students here now and those to come.

The University is still one of the few places left where true democracy — a town meeting government — is practiced.

Don't jeopardize involvement for what may prove to be a nebulous increase in efficiency.

Reagan's diplomacy: send in the Marines

The United States, for all intents, is presently fighting wars in three countries. But no war has been declared.

The latest instance occurred when 1,500 U.S. Army Rangers and Marines "invaded" the island of Grenada. The wire services were the first to use the term "invaded" referring to the intervention of U.S. military forces. It's an apt term.

Grenada has been particularly unstable this last week with the assassination of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop by the military. Bishop's government was Marxist and backed by the Cuban government.

The 1,500 U.S. troops were dispatched to the waters off Grenada to ensure the safety of Americans on the island. There were no initial plans — at least reported — for them to invade Grenada. Yet, they invaded Tuesday.

The situation in Grenada must be placed alongside the situation in Central America. There are U.S. military personnel in Honduras and El Salvador. They are supposed to be advisers but their role has become increasingly more aggressive.

Following the tragic situation over the weekend in Lebanon, U.S. Marines have been ordered behind sand-bagged bunkers and given the go-ahead to "shoot-to-kill." In the wake of the deaths of the more than 200 Marines by the suicide-bombing there is little to indicate the U.S. military presence won't be escalated.

All this sounds like dispatches from the War Office — and it may well be. Anyone who doubts the Reagan administration uses the military as its first tool of diplomacy has only to note the increased presence of the U.S. military across the world.

Pres. Ronald Reagan has put this country on a definite war-footing. What will his legacy be?

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Town hall meetings,
general representation,
General rep, town hall...



Such a dilemma!



What's wrong with
Martial Law?!



letters

Rather upset

I am rather upset as to the subversive attitudes of many people on campus in regard to the United States' involvement in Lebanon.

They fail to realize why we are in Lebanon. The reason for our presence in Lebanon is a very simple one: to maintain peace in the war ravaged land. Lebanon is a festering sore for communist terrorists and our sole reason for ever getting involved is for protection of the people. It is ridiculous to even think in our wildest dreams that our purposes in the Middle East could be for any other reason. Our brave young men are there because they are willing, and have chosen, to fight for the freedom of the people. They are the heavenly ray of hope that shines through the impending terror and despair in Lebanon.

Our police action is all that stands between life and death for the people of Lebanon. Soon it will be over and our brave young soldiers will be coming home. After all, what could possibly go wrong in Lebanon?

Kirk Carter
junior, telecommunications

Feel the need

We feel the need to express our position on issues raised in recent letters from Thomas Karter and Paul Parks. In the matter of the graphics on the poster used to publicize the Solomon Amendment rally, we must admit that the final form of the poster disappointed us in several particulars. The graphics used were offensive to many of the ASUO staff and the failure of the poster to clearly state the purpose of the gathering was a disappointment. In our attempt to organize the rally in coalition with other groups, we failed to proof the final copy of the poster before it was produced. We regret the tasteless graphics and our failure to more closely coordinate this cooperative effort. The repugnance of war does not excuse this excess. We were offended and apologize to others who were offended. No ASUO

funds were used in the production of the poster.

The Solomon Amendment, in both its form I and II, is, in our opinion, an unnecessary and unconstitutional abridgement of the Fifth Amendment and other basic principles upon which our government was founded. Requiring a person to certify that they have not committed a crime in order to get the financial aid to which the law entitles them is the desperate act of a government that has lost the consent of the governed and must resort to oppressive measures to enforce its decrees. If a national consensus on the need for Selective Service registration existed, Selective Service would not have to go through the machinations it has over the last few years. In a free society, there can be no excuse for such massive coercion and blatant violation of rights.

The purpose of the ASUO Student Lobby Network is to make students aware of potential government actions on issues of concern to them. We do not intend to tell anyone which position to take, but to educate them on the issues and how to make their voices heard when student action is needed.

Mary Hotchkiss
ASUO executive

All checked-out

The University library recently enacted a policy change enabling graduate students to check out books for up to six months. While the idea is commendable, in practice it compounds rather than resolves the problem of securing information for extended periods of time.

Graduate students often dash to the library in search of books, articles, and other information, hoping to wrap up a thesis or other important paper, only to find that the information has already been checked out. Competition can be fierce. Why? Because graduate studies are narrow and more defined. Books and articles on the appropriate subject are limited (and the library usually has only one copy). As a result, graduates

parallel, cross and re-cross each other's research "trails" several times during the course of their studies.

Something, obviously, must be done to ensure easy access to information in the library. But to keep a book from other hard working, fee paying graduates is as good as stealing it.

Daniel Holden
graduate, journalism

Look it up

In reply to Greg Van Dyke's and Michael Wilson's letter of Oct. 21 disagreeing with my position that the government does not have the right to involuntarily induct young men into the military, I would suggest they pick up a Webster's dictionary and make use of it. If they look up the word "raise," they will find the following definition: 1) awaken, arouse 2) to stir up, incite 3) to bring up for consideration or debate. However, the word "conscript" is defined as "to enroll into the service by compulsion."

I would contend that the men who authored the Constitution were well aware of the meanings of both words, perhaps having attained a higher level of education than our sophomoric ("conceited and overconfident of knowledge but poorly informed and immature" — Webster's) friends, and consciously chose the word "raise" over "conscript." This position is supported historically in that during the first attempts to bring the draft into existence, during the War of 1812, a number of states threatened to secede.

During those debates Daniel Webster argued from the floor of Congress that the draft was unconstitutional and by accepting involuntary conscription into the military, "the most essential rights of personal liberty shall be surrendered and despotism embraced in its worst form."

While I do agree that the Constitution does give the Congress the right to "raise" an army, it does not give Congress the right to "enslave" an army.

Ron Phillips
CORD

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