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Assembly fails to decide Senate's fate

By Michael Doke
Of the Emerald

The role, the usefulness and the future of the University Senate dominated University Assembly discussion Wednesday, as Senate Chair Kappy Eaton had planned.

But of the entire Assembly membership, which includes every faculty member at the University along with the 18 Student University Affairs Board members, only about 50 showed to voice their concerns about their own advisory body.

The sparse crowd heard Eaton restate that the Senate issue is not a new issue before the Assembly. It was on the Assembly floor a number of times last year and was never resolved.

In its current form, the decade-old Senate considers motions pending before the Assembly, discusses them, amends them and brings them back to the larger body, Eaton said.

Senate recommendations go virtually ignored at Assembly, however, she said.

"It's a point of irritation. The Assembly rarely listens to the Senate," Eaton says. "We ask ourselves: 'Why do we really exist?'"

Counseling psychology Prof. Ron Rousseve said Senate attendance and morale continues to decline. "SUAB members, who have been very responsible over the past few years, may also have their interests erode."

Of the issues brought out during Assembly, the size of the Senate and its ability to act as a housekeeping agent between different academic departments emerged as chief concerns.

A straw vote taken by University President Paul Olum showed a majority of the Assembly feels the Senate would be more effective if reduced from its current membership of 54 to 25 or fewer members. The vote showed an interest in maintaining the current one-third student status in the Senate.

English Prof. Stanley Greenfield said statements of student representation produce a student-against-faculty feeling in Assembly.

"I find that disturbing. We work for the University as a whole in this Assembly," Greenfield said.

"I hope we give students the benefit of the doubt," said Rousseve. "They see themselves as members of the University community and not a voting bloc against faculty."



University President Paul Olum addresses a sparse University Assembly crowd Wednesday during a discussion over the fate of the University Senate.

The Senate should become a guardian of the legislative process of University governance, said Gerry Moseley, associate provost for student affairs. Referring to a forthcoming recommendation from the governance committee, which is chaired by architecture Prof. George Hodge, Moseley said the Senate can review Assembly issues and oversee the housekeeping of different University departments.

The Hodge Committee, which is more than two years old, has designed a mechanism, called

the protest/no-protest route, for motions to reach the Senate. During a specified time period an Assembly member disagreeing with the motion can act on it through the protest route, Moseley said.

If the motion has not been protested, the Senate can take action. Minor legislation could be passed without taking up Assembly time, he said.

Paul Holbo, vice provost for academic affairs, agreed with the value of the protest/no-protest route. "Give the Senate a set of useful functions as the

(Hodge) committee suggests. It is a better approach than the issue of power and representation," he said.

Economics Prof. Robert Campbell said that the Assembly is an old organization and was effective when the campus was smaller and more liberal. "Maybe the old organization doesn't work anymore," he said.

"And, remember, when we are discussing the Senate, we are discussing this body (the Assembly)," he said.

Student to give insights from recent Soviet tour

People of all nations — particularly the United States and Soviet Union — should demand participation and a voice in foreign-affairs discussions, says Matt Mosner, a third-year University law student.

And they should learn to talk to each other, says Mosner.



Matt Mosner

Mosner was involved in a debating tour of the Soviet Union in May. He says establishing person-to-person contact, as well as government-to-government contact, is the best way for citizens of all countries to become informed.

"The bilateral competition of both countries is overshadowing the military and economic considerations of the Third World," Mosner says.

"The Soviet Union, and to a very great extent the United States, is so fixated on the elements of this rivalry that they have ignored the needs of these other countries."

Mosner, along with two other Americans, toured the Soviet Union for two and one-half weeks in a speaking series sponsored by the Speech Communication Association of the United States and the Student Council of the Soviet Union. Through these programs, American speakers visit the Soviet Union every other year, and Soviet speakers visit this country on the off years.

During his eight debates at four Soviet universities in Moscow, Minsk, Tbilisi and Tashkent, Mosner says he found Soviet students unwilling to focus too far beyond the problems of the two superpowers.

He says the students have a great deal of misinformation and are ignorant about many issues within Soviet foreign policy.

"They don't know there are 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan," he says.

But despite their lack of knowledge, the Soviet students share concerns felt in this country, namely the potential of a nuclear war and the need to improve U.S.-Soviet relations, he says.

Mosner will talk about his Soviet experiences tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Forum Room. The program, titled "Talking to the Russians," is free.

Peace group toasts 51's success

By Dan Coran
and Torkjell Djupedal
Of the Emerald

It was a big victory in a little way.

The lawn signs, petition rosters, phone calls, doorbells, speeches, leaflets, rallies and presentations were all behind them now. Huddled around a small television set Tuesday night, 20 individuals ate chocolate-chip ice cream and savored the results of their efforts.

Ten months of hard work had come to an end.

As the tide of Reaganism swept the country on election night, Eugene emerged as an island of opposition to some of the president's policies. The projections indicated Measure 51 would pass, and the small group in Ray Wolfe's living room was delighted.

"This is the beginning — maybe more than the beginning — of a rising tide of public opinion," said Wolfe, a member of the Alliance for Peace in Central America, while other members joined him at his house to watch the election results.

"People want peace in Central America — a negotiated peace as opposed to one by arms," Wolfe said.

By a margin of almost 2-to-1, Eugene voters sent a clear message to the Reagan administration: Stop military involvement in Central America.

A small fire burned in the fireplace. Wine was on the table in the dining room.

The television had been wheeled into the center of the room, and in an effort to find election returns among the frequent commercial breaks, a woman in a blue sweater flipped between television stations. Warmed by cynical jokes, white wine and pleasant conversation, the

group followed the favorable progress of Measure 51 throughout the evening.

"I think it's important for groups like ours to keep working in ever-increasing quantities to make government know we're here," said Pat Dixon, a first-year graduate student in international studies and member of the group. "Just because Reagan has been elected doesn't mean he has a free reign."

"If elected representatives truly represent the people, and if people showed that they wanted a change in policy, hopefully there would be some change," Dixon said. "If every city in the United States passed measures like this, it would spark some recognition of disagreement."

The small group in Wolfe's living room attracted more recognition than it had thought. At 9:15 p.m., a KVAL-TV camera crew knocked on the door for an on-the-spot news story. As the night went on, Wolfe was busy making official statements to the media.

A retired chemistry professor from the University, Wolfe is active in the sanctuary movement, which gives shelter to Central American families illegally living in the United States.

"We make communists in Central America by opposing humanitarian policies of change and reform," he said. "With education, people will become aware that hunger and poverty are the major reasons for revolution in the region. Then the power of this administration on this issue will fall apart like a house of cards."

Wolfe is optimistic about the future. "I hope this isn't the end of Measure 51's effect," he said. "I hope it will motivate and interest people who before were uninformed about the issue."