

Public service ratings high

Springfield city residents generally feel good about their level of city services, according to a recent public opinion survey conducted by an independent research company.

The survey, released at a city council work session meeting last week, showed one out of every three publicly provided services is rated good or superior.

Springfield citizens rated services with a more direct impact on personal situations as more important than those with a community-based benefit. Pothole patching, animal control, and nuisance ordinances enforcement all received higher priority than energy conservation, community growth planning, industrial and commercial property development, or social services.

Although a high priority was also put on economic development, only a few respondents placed as much priority on industrial land development or professional development services.

"This leads to the conclusion that while the average Springfield resident thinks economic development is important to community growth, there is as yet no common definition of what must be done to pursue this goal," said Chris Pryor, marketing director at Mar%Stat Market Research and Analysis, a Eugene-based national research

company.

The response rate to the mailed questionnaires surpassed the minimum required to declare the results statistically valid, according to a spokesperson at the company.

"The reason the city did the survey was to find out what priorities the community has. The city is in the process of cutting back its budget \$1 million. The entire budget is about \$10 million, so we're talking about cutting 10 percent of the budget," said Steve Roth, economic development coordinator.

However, more than half of the respondents think city services should not be cut before reviewing other tax options to increase revenues.

"This does not imply that residents are willing to add additional taxes or fees out of hand," Chris Pryor said. "But they're willing to be open-minded and weigh the issues."

Among respondents willing to review tax options, implementing a sales tax was the most popular, with a 39 percent favorable response. User and business license fees rated second and third.

In addition, 14 percent of the respondents indicated they would consider an increase in property taxes, while 10 percent would consider income tax increases.

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IFC

On Wednesday, the Incidental Fee Committee approved a request by the ASUO for \$14,000 needed to cover past and future costs of the South African divestiture lawsuit, for which an appeal will be filed within 30 days.

Of that money, approximately \$12,000 will go to cover costs incurred from the suit, and \$2,000 will be set aside to pay for transcripts of the trial, said ASUO President Julie Davis.

The IFC has backed the ASUO's position as plaintiff from the lawsuit's beginning, and committee member Lori Lieberman said it would be unfair to now demand that they be responsible for carrying the financial burden. Without the full support of the IFC, the ASUO would be forced to spend too much time on fund-raising activities, she said.

"I think there are two issues here: whether or not we should invest in companies working in South Africa and whether students should have control over where their funds are spent," said Bob Mead, the new IFC chair.

Although the ASUO says they plan to appeal the judicial decision, no funds for the future appeal were requested except the \$2,000 for the trial transcripts. Any funds for the future appeal will need further IFC approval.

The IFC also approved a request of \$670.50 from Bill Kirtledge, director of the Office of Student Advocacy. The money is needed to pay a University law school student who worked on the divestiture suit, Kirtledge said.

SUAB

The Student University Affairs Board formed a task force committee to research further the possibility of a new coffee shop in the EMU at its meeting Thursday evening.

The committee had previously investigated the addition of a student tavern to the EMU, but response from University administrators prompted members of SUAB and other group representatives involved to change the proposal to a coffee shop and cafe.

SUAB Chair Sara Tenney
Oregon Daily Emerald

says, however, that there are some committee members who believe SUAB, as well as the ASUO, Incidental Fee Committee and EMU Board members who serve on the new task force, still should pursue installing a tavern.

The committee also discussed opening student evaluations, although Tenney says no specific progress was made at the meeting. Another task force committee, which is made up of three faculty members and two SUAB members, will continue to look into this issue.

There are four positions now open on SUAB; two in the business/economics department, one from humanities and one from dance/physical education/recreation. Applications will be taken until Wednesday at 5 p.m. See SUAB members in Suite 3, EMU, or call 686-3720 for more information.

SUAB will hold its next meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in Room 337, EMU.

OSPIRG

Members of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group discussed the progress of interns and a testimony given at

a Salem hearing Thursday in OSPIRG's meeting Friday.

Carol Benedick, state chair, said the presentation by OSPIRG Executive Director Tom Novick on the issue of checkholding by banks, received "generally positive" response from consumer officials at the capitol hearing.

OSPIRG also reviewed the work of two interns, one concerning the "inadequate" marking of new telephones. Benedick said a statewide survey by intern Ann Frenkel shows that product information on telephones made by companies other than AT&T, is often missing or incomplete. Another intern, Ann Wright, is also taking a statewide survey on toxics in art supplies.

There will be a legislative training workshop on Jan. 26 and 27 in Salem conducted by OSPIRG, Benedick added. Participants will learn effective techniques in lobbying, letter-writing campaigns and influencing legislators, she said. The training is free and carpooling will be arranged. See an OSPIRG member in Suite 1, EMU, or call 686-4377 for more information.



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