



## Students might direct health center's budget

By Julie Shippen  
Of the Emerald

Students will gain \$2.4 million in veto power and will have direct control over the Student Health Center's services if a proposal to put the facility's annual budget up for student approval is accepted, says Todd Saunders of the ASUC Executive.

The proposal includes a new student/faculty committee that would endorse or reject the center's budget each year, based on the collective interests of the student body, Saunders says.

Saunders discussed the idea Tuesday with Dan Williams, vice president for administration, James Jackson, health center director, and Bob Petit, a health center administrator. The four will act on the final proposal some time in April, Saunders says.

The proposed committee would decide what, if any, new services should be added at the center and what services are no longer needed or wanted by students, based on a biennial campus-wide survey, he says.

Response from a similar survey, taken by the University's marketing department in 1983, shows that students are interested in adding dental, optical and chiropractic services, among others, to the list of professionals at the center, Saunders says.

The new committee's survey would be different, however, in the respect that students would start as if "from scratch," putting into priority their interests instead of indicating what they would like in addition to what the center says they must have, he says.

"If the survey comes up and reflects what's at the center, fantastic. I have no objections," he says. "But we owe it to the students to ask them what they want."

Currently, there is a committee assigned to review the annual budget, Saunders says, but this group acts purely in an advisory capacity.

"Students' voice in the health center is exactly that — advisory," he says. "I want to see students actively involved with voting power in what's going down

there. I don't think it's an unreasonable request."

Saunders, who coordinates the committee's four student members, believes their influence is further stifled because the 12-person group does not have time to thoroughly evaluate new budgets, which are lengthy and complex.

But with the approval of the new committee, and with a special constitution outlining its rights and functions, adequate time and voice could be provided to make sure students' needs are being realized in the budget, Saunders says.

This year's health center budget consists of \$2,455,000 in student dollars, Saunders says, none of which is state money. "Students are paying 100 percent of that (sum)," which may surprise a lot of students, Saunders says. "We own the health center just like we own the EMU."

The budget is a combination of the center's expected revenue from laboratory work, pharmaceutical sales and other health-care charges, plus a \$33-per-term, per-student fee paid on top of incidental fees, he says.

Saunders says his proposal in no way implies that the center's employees are mishandling the budget, and it is not his goal to change the facility or its services unless students so desire, he adds.

Rather, it's the "issue" at stake, he says, and it's time the funds are turned back over to the students. The switch is nothing new, Saunders adds, as up until 1971, the Incidental Fee Committee allocated funds to the center in the same manner it now allocates funds to student groups, to the EMU and to the University's athletic department.

"I think we should put the students' money back in their hands again, back where it belongs," Saunders says.

Bob Petit, a health center administrator, believes Saunders' proposal is valid. As long as certain "safeguards" are included in the process, Petit says, he sees no reason why students shouldn't be further involved.

"We enjoy working with students," he says. "It is student money and we're very, very cognizant of that."

## Legislators plan tour of research centers

Members of Oregon's Senate Education Committee will visit the University today to get an overview of its research facilities, says Bob Watrus, committee administrator.

The committee's visit is part of a two-day tour to four Oregon universities, where the legislators will be looking at programs and listening to faculty members involved in the proposed "centers of excellence," Watrus says.

In addition to the University, committee members will visit Oregon State University, Portland State University and Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland.

The University's center of excellence, the advanced science and technology institute, along with the three other centers, recently asked the Legislature for \$11.6 million plus money from the

Oregon State Lottery to run the programs, Watrus says. The lottery funds would be used to build facilities that will house the centers of excellence, he says.

The legislators will meet with University President Paul Olum and later will hear a presentation from Dick Hersh, vice president for research. Hersh will describe University programs in biotechnology, international business and management technology.

He also will review the University's proposed Riverfront Science Park project, to be located by the Willamette River near the Autzen Stadium footbridge.

The legislators will later tour laboratories conducting research in molecular biology, neuroscience, cell biology, lasers, computer software and chemical physics.



### Solar collectors

How many times have we heard those dermatologists say that the sun is bad for skin? That 20 or 30 years from now we'll all look like prunes if we keep up this sun worship? ... But still, who can resist those first few sunny days of spring?

Photo by Michael Clapp