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State System will invite proposals for installation of computer system

By Andrew LaMar
Of the Emerald

The Oregon State System of Higher Education plans to invite computer vendors to submit proposals for the installation of a long-awaited centralized computer system by Feb. 21, said Bill Lemman, the State System's executive vice-chancellor.

The computer system, named the Total Information System, will keep all the financial, human resource and student information for the state's eight institutions in a centralized computer in Corvallis.

The final draft of the Request For Qualifications, the State System's guidelines for the computer system, should be completed by the end of the week, Lemman said.

The RFO will then be sent out to computer vendors. Proposals will be accepted until March 28, Lemman said.

Many of the disagreements between members of the interinstitutional committee working on the project were ironed out Friday, said Richard Hill, University provost. The meeting included representatives from all of the state's institutions.

"I think there's now a shared understanding of what the functions of a megasystem should perform for both the State System and the institutions," Hill said.

One of the major issues was whether or not to include the University library's automation in

the computer system, Hill said. The committee decided to compromise and make the computer system large enough to accommodate the library's system if needed, he said.

"Certainly that backbone (the computer system) should be capable of servicing an automated library system," Hill said.

Also, the committee worked out many specific and technical details such as which institutions need certain equipment to make the computer system work, Hill said.

The idea of a centralized computer network for state institutions is nothing new. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education has had the concept in mind for several years.

The idea became reality last spring when the State Board passed a request for the system.

Controversy was focused on the system last fall when University President Paul Olum said he questioned the proposal because State System officials would not reveal the cost of the project. He added that many University officials believed the University would be better off handling its own information.

But many of the project's officials said the computer system will be a big advantage for the University.

"When this system is up and running, we'll be able to solve a range of vexing problems — computerized registration, pre-registration. Once this system is in place, there will be some real benefits," Hill said.



Richard Hill

The new system will be "a quantum leap into the 20th century," said Herb Chereck, University registrar and chair of the project's subcommittee on software. The system will make even simple things like counseling much simpler, Chereck said.

For instance, when a counselor and a student go over major requirements, the counselor would be able to use a computer to categorize classes, Chereck said.

Lemman estimated the operating

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Habib looking into Philippine election

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib, met separately Monday with President Ferdinand E. Marcos and with Corazon Aquino, both unyielding in their claims to the Philippine presidency.

When Reagan sent Habib here, he said the veteran troubleshooter was on a fact-finding mission and would report back to him on the aftermath of the Feb. 7 presidential election.

Aquino was still ahead in an independent vote count although the National Assembly officially proclaimed Marcos the victor Saturday.

In a printed statement Monday, Aquino said, "What is at stake here is more than the removal of an impostor president. It is the future of democracy itself."

Despite world criticism of Marcos' victory claim, growing economic pressures and a unified and emboldened opposition, the president seemed confident he can rule for another six years.

His only public comment after meeting two hours with Habib was that Habib guaranteed he was "not interested in any way in telling us how to run our affairs."

Marcos, who has been running the Philippines for 20 years, said he gave Habib documents proving his opponents cheated and used violence in the election.

Roman Catholic bishops, independent pollwatchers, international observers and Reagan himself have cited fraud and terrorism by the government side.

Habib would not give reporters any details of his talks.

Habib also conferred with Jose Concepcion, head of Namfrel, the independent pollwatching organization. Namfrel still had Aquino ahead with incomplete returns 10 days after the election.

IFC refuses to fund the Drug Information Center

By Linda Hahn
Of the Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee refused to approve funding for the Drug Information Center's 1986-87 budget Monday evening, putting the program's future in jeopardy.

While the DIC began as a student program, the ASUO Executive asserted that its function had become more academic in nature over the years, and that incidental fees cannot be used to subsidize academic departments.

"At this point, you no longer provide a service for students. You produce matter which we learn in classrooms, which we can no longer pay for," said ASUO President Lynn Pinckney to DIC Program Manager Mark Miller.

"We are willing to advocate your program and ask the University to pay for it," she added. "The administration wants the service for the Health 250 class, and they want the IFC to pay for it."

However, University Provost Richard Hill said that lecturing Health 250 classes was hardly a justification for continuing the program.

"I can't give a good estimate of what the future of the center will be. It has never been a part of a regular academic program," Hill said. "We'll have to take a look at what role in the University the center should have — if any."

Refusing to fund the DIC at \$17,268 next year could mean that the center may

cease to continue, said Miller.

"It's a loss of 15 years of previous investment in the center," Miller said. He estimated that the center served 20 percent of the student population last year by being an educational information resource with the Health Education department.

After conducting extensive research on the DIC last summer, the ASUO found several funding inconsistencies, said Caitlin Cameron, ASUO coordinator of finance. Maintaining a library of drug information was not a function to be supported by fees, Cameron said.

Student input was not included when choosing a DIC director and the University administration signed contracts with those chosen, rather than the ASUO.

"We provide a good service that in the past the University can't or won't pick up. In the past, the IFC has decided to pick it up," Miller said. "We only hope this pushes the University to a decision. The DIC staff is not upset, just confused."

Hill expects to meet with involved parties and reach a decision on funding in a week to 10 days.

"If the Drug Information Center dies, its function won't necessarily die," said IFC Member Adam Apalategui. The library materials will go to the Main Library, and lecturing and counseling functions will go to other counseling centers, he said.



Children enjoy campus visit

A "Rock Pile Rummage" outside the Geology building kicked off the day for Aaron Wirth (left) and Seth Morningsun, two of the many elementary-school children attending Campus Kid's Day.

The event was sponsored by the Student University Relations Council.

Photo by Derrel Hewitt