

Student Senate votes to place deadline extension on ballot

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

The Student Senate on Monday unanimously approved placing a measure on the ASUO spring election ballot that would extend the time students have to drop classes.

The ballot measure would extend from 10 school days to 20 school days the time students have to drop classes without receiving a "W," meaning withdrawal, on their transcripts.

If the extension is approved by a majority of University students, the Senate will present a motion to accept the extension before the University Senate, said Student Senator Randy Mac Donald.

'The whole idea (of the drop deadline) is to see how a student is doing in a class,'

— Donna Lawrence

"It (student approval) would give us a student mandate for change," he said.

A general election vote will reach a large group of people and reflect the opinions of students as a whole, which will give the results credibility, he said.

Monday's vote followed a Student Senate survey in which 95 percent of the students who responded supported the proposal. Of the University faculty who respond to a similar Student Senate survey, 40 percent said the current time allotment is too short.

But because only about 10 percent of the University's 1,400 faculty members and only 61 students responded to the surveys, many of those in a position to change the cutoff date do not consider the statistics valid, said Student Senate Chair Donna Lawrence.

"The whole idea (of the drop deadline) is to

see how a student is doing in a class," Lawrence said. The current drop period gives students only four to six class days to decide to drop a class before receiving a "W," she said.

The last day to drop a class without a "W" is also the last day of late registration.

But there is no reason to extend the deadline longer than for other registration activities, said University Registrar Herb Chereck. The two-week deadline is ample time if students survey their courses before enrolling, he said.

The "W" on a student's transcript is necessary if a student does not complete a course, Chereck said. From a record-keeping standpoint, the academic history of the student would not be accurately represented if the deadline to drop a class without notation was extended, he said.

The Senate also voted 8-0 to place on the ballot a measure to determine students' opinions on the ROTC issue. One member abstained from the vote.

Although no action will be taken on the ROTC issue initially, results of a vote will provide accurate information about student opinion concerning the issue, Lawrence said.

The University Assembly defeated two ROTC-related motions March 6. The original motion called for elimination of the University ROTC program. An amended motion would have suspended the program until it complied with University equal opportunity and affirmative action guidelines.

Correction

Submissions for the new EMU statement of purpose sign will be accepted April 7-21 rather than April 7-12, as the Oregon Daily Emerald reported Tuesday. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

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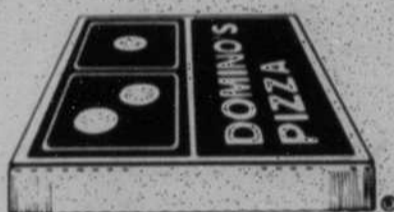
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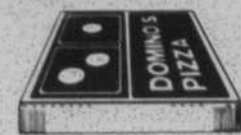
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