

Students receive opportunity to cast vote on ROTC issue

By Deborah Janes
Of the Emerald

Students will have a chance to voice their opinions on the legitimacy of the ROTC's campus location in the general election Wednesday and Thursday.

Ballot Measure 8, an advisory measure submitted by the Student Senate, asks students if they want to recommend to University President Paul Olum that the affiliation between the University and ROTC be terminated.

A student survey conducted winter term gathered little input on the ROTC issue, and Senate members are not satisfied with the results.

"We only got about 50 responses, and it was no way scientific or representative of student opinion," said Randy MacDonald, a Student Senate member.

The Student Senate has voted on the issue 14 times since 1967 in response to University biology Professor Bayard McConnaughey's contention that allowing ROTC to operate on campus implicates the University in the militarization of the United States. Others contend ROTC discriminates against homosexuals and thereby violates the University's equal opportunity policy.

But this is the first time the student body will have a chance to vote on the issue, said Student Senate Chairwoman Donna Lawrence, who drafted the measure.

"It bothers me that this issue comes up every year, but nothing ever gets done about it," she said. Student input should be included in the decision, she added.

Although less than 20 percent of the student body historically votes and the ballot measure is non-binding, its outcome could still have an impact, MacDonald said.

Officials at the ROTC office said they were unaware the measure would appear on the ballot. "I don't think my boss even knows about this," said Richard Edwards, assistant professor of military science. He would not speculate on the measure's possible impact on the ROTC.

After championing the cause for nearly two decades, McConnaughey is happy that students will now have their say.

"I'm glad students are thinking about it," he said. "But they don't have any military experience to reflect on, and I think some will just go along with the national trend."

McConnaughey objects to the ROTC members' argument that they should have the freedom to choose to participate in ROTC. "We taxpayers don't have the freedom to choose to pay for their scholarships to attend (college), later to pay their salaries and then their retirement pensions," he said.

MacDonald expects the issue will draw students to the polls. "It's a big issue. It will hopefully produce a better voter turnout."

Ballot measure asks to extend the current add/drop deadline

By Deborah De Young
Of the Emerald

Extending the deadline to drop classes will benefit students and have little effect on the University administration and faculty, said Donna Lawrence, Student Senate chairwoman.

Lawrence and the Student Senate proposed Ballot Measure 2, an advisory measure, to gauge student opinion on whether to extend the add/drop deadline from the present 10 school days to 20.

Before the 1985 fall quarter, students had 15 school days after the quarter began to add or drop classes without notation on their transcripts. The period was shortened by one week at the recommendation of the Academic Requirements Committee, which based its decision on faculty concern over students entering classes three weeks after the quarter had begun, Lawrence said.

University Registrar Herbert Chereck said another reason for changing the requirements was to bring informal department deadlines into conformity with University deadlines.

A decision to change the period again is premature, Chereck said.

"I don't think the dust cloud has settled yet," he said. "We haven't even completed the first year of the change."

Lawrence disagrees. "Overwhelmingly, students, no matter how organized, how neglectful, don't like the deadline," she said.

Under the current policy, students receive a "W" on their transcripts if courses are dropped after the two-week deadline. A "W" indicates

withdrawal from the course and is neutral, Chereck said.

Its purpose is to "maintain a history of the fact that (students) tried, and for whatever reason, chose not to finish that class," he said.

Lawrence said the best compromise would be to keep the present 10-day deadline for adding classes, but extend the deadline for dropping classes to 20 school days.


When the Academic Requirements Committee changed the deadline, its members were "unresponsive to students' concern about the drop deadline because they didn't want to change the add deadline," Lawrence said. Changing only the drop deadline will serve student's interests without affecting the interests of faculty or administrators, she said.

Chereck objects to the proposal because, "drop and add are part of the same activity, and you don't separate them." He would like to see a defined period of time during which registration is finalized, but emphasized that "I and this office do not set policy. Policy is set by the faculty."

The ballot measure is not binding, but will be used as a recommendation to the University Assembly, which can extend the class drop deadline. A vote of approval for the measure will be a "strong statement of support," Lawrence said.

"There is no other time to get 3,000 students to give their opinion on something," Lawrence said. "Why not put it on the ballot and let students decide for themselves?"


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