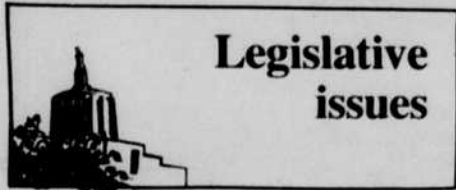


State community colleges may get own state agency

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

A bill creating a new state agency for Oregon's community colleges was passed by the House Education Committee on Tuesday.

The Oregon Community College Association proposed the bill, which will create a state department of community colleges headed by a chancellor. Currently, Oregon community colleges are under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education, which also governs kindergarten through 12th grade public school programs.



Legislative issues

The bill has now been referred to the Ways and Means Committee for a financial analysis after which it will be considered by the full House.

Supporters of House Bill 2530, say the State Board of Education and its head, Verne Duncan, are too preoccupied with elementary and high school issues to properly represent community college interests in state government.

The new community college

chancellor would represent the specific interests of community colleges in state government and would report to the existing State Board of Education.

The OCCA says the money for the chancellor position already exists in the state budget for community colleges. But the Ways and Means Committee may be considering cuts in the state budgets for community colleges and vocational education programs, said Roger Bassett, executive secretary of OCCA.

Bassett said he will try to convince the Ways and Means Committee that the community college budget has to stay at its current level to give the chancellor proposal its best chance.

The creation of a chancellor of community colleges could lead to improved cooperation between the community colleges and the public four-year colleges and universities in the State System of Higher Education, Bassett said.

"By creating an agency that lives and breathes community colleges, it gives a chance for clean, one-to-one communication between the community college chancellor and the higher education chancellor," he said.

That sort of communication does not take place now, he said.

"Rarely has the (higher education) chancellor seen fit to talk to the OCCA or other outside organizations representing community colleges."

Emerald editor wins award for in-depth story on AIDS

Jolayne Houtz, community associate editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald, has won 10th place in the Journalism Awards Program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Houtz received a \$300 scholarship for the first story in a three-part series on AIDS. The story appeared in the Jan. 7 Emerald and focused on discrimination against those with AIDS. The School of Journalism received a matching \$300 grant.

"This is a good reflection on both the Emerald and the journalism school," Houtz said. "It shows how you can put training received in the journalism school to work for you in real life."

The Journalism Awards Program consists of six monthly contests and one photo journalism competition. Eighty-eight accredited journalism schools in the United States are currently participating in the program.



Jolayne Houtz

Houtz is the third consecutive Emerald staff member to receive recognition from the Hearst awards competition in the past three months.

Saferide to discontinue weekend off-campus service

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Project Saferide will be hiring three to four radio dispatchers and will be discontinuing off-campus service on Friday and Saturday nights, said Shannon Meehan, the project coordinator.

The radio dispatchers are being hired to handle Saferide calls and any questions the drivers may have, Meehan said, and will be jointly employed by Campus Security and Saferide.

"They will be trained by myself and my assistant coordinator Laurie (Rooper) and also by Campus Security on how to service calls and things like that," she said.

The radios in the Saferide vans are now tuned to the Cam-

Radio operators to be hired to assist Saferide drivers

pus Security frequency, Meehan said. The Saferide radio dispatchers will enable Campus Security to do its job without worrying about Saferide's little problems, she said.

"Campus Security has a lot of responsibility. They deal with all the alarms that go off on this campus; they deal with any kind of emergency that comes up on this campus. They do not physically have the time to deal with it (Saferide)," Meehan said.

"Saferide, because it's new, has little problems that come up, and so you need someone who knows the whole workings of Saferide plus the whole

workings of Campus Security," she added.

The dispatchers probably will begin work the first day of spring term, Meehan said.

Another discontinuation of off-campus service Friday and Saturday nights is due to a lack of volunteer drivers and low ridership on those nights, she said.

The off-campus route makes stops at the main University classrooms, libraries and the east side of campus and services Westmoreland and Amazon Family Housing.

"The off-campus (service) averages about five people a night," Meehan said. "It is the lowest used, but I think one of the main reasons for that is it just started this term."

The off-campus van also has had some problems with drivers not showing up for shifts, she added.

"People (along that route) are not used to seeing it around,

and a lot of people who live in Amazon and Westmoreland already have cars," she said.

Meehan said she hopes the cut in route service is not permanent but believes it was an appropriate decision for this time.

"It's better to communicate to them (the riders along that route) on Friday and Saturdays. I'm sorry, but we're not feasible yet to make it there on a reliable basis, and we can only serve you Sunday through Thursday. We're going to work as hard as possible to alleviate that problem. But until we do, we will let you know when it starts up again," she said.

Doing this is better than haphazardly trying to continue service on those nights, she added.

Even though the off-campus ridership is low, overall ridership this term was at 680 as of last week, Meehan said, which is more than double the amount

of riders from last term.

Julie Foster said she rides Saferide an average of three times a week and also drives once a week. She has noticed an increase in the number of women who are taking advantage of the service.

"I think people are becoming more aware of it, and they're realizing that it's to help people," she said, noting that when the Saferide service was first offered, many people had bad attitudes toward the program because it allowed women only.

Stephanie Kustner, who has been riding Saferide since the beginning of winter term, said she also has noticed an increase in the number of passengers. She believes the program is effective as well.

"It's annoying that you feel you have to go in a van rather than walk, but I think it's something that's very important," she said. "Maybe just having it around makes people more aware of what's going on."

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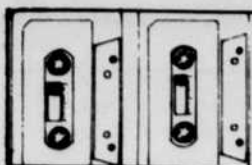
-Dr. Percy Julian was the renowned Black chemist who, in 1935 developed a drug for the treatment of glaucoma, a dreaded eye disease?

-Carter G. Woodson was the outstanding historian who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, which was later named the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. He is responsible for founding Black History Month. One of his most famous works is The Miseducation of the Negro?

-James Weldon Johnson, a novelist, poet, NAACP official and diplomat is most famous for his poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which, when set to music by his brother, became "The Black National Anthem." One of his most famous written works is The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man?

-W.E.B. DuBois, an important Black scholar, writer and philosopher became the first Black man to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1894?

Did You Know sponsored by the Black Student Union.



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