

# Elections Board discusses proposed changes

By Steve Lundgren  
Of the Emerald

With memories of alleged unfair play during last year's ASUO elections, the ASUO Elections Board met Thursday night to discuss proposed changes in the rules governing elections.

The five-member board, moderated by ASUO Vice President Caitlin Cameron, listened to Lucille Kaplan, the director of the Office of Student Advocacy, explain the proposed changes that currently are being drafted by the ASUO Executive.

While there is an existing rules document, Kaplan said it only covers the elections process. The proposed changes are designed to regulate election ethics.

The proposed changes were prompted by complaints last year regarding non-student groups and individuals who tried to influence the election.

Complaints were made about the Duck Athletic Fund purchasing advertisements in the Oregon Daily Emerald. Complaints also were filed about a message on the MacArthur Court reader board asking student support of Measure 10, which dealt with student funding of athletics, said ASUO President Steve Nelson.

"We would just like to assure that the only people involved in student elections are students,"

he said.

Also included in the proposed changes are articles that would prohibit using class time for promoting candidates or ballot measures, require the publication and posting of ASUO election rules (including distribution among faculty and staff) and give both the ASUO and the University executives power to enforce the rules.

The changes are modeled after statutes in both state and federal election rules, Kaplan said.

"There's nothing unusual about this (the changes)," Kaplan said. "We just haven't had anything like this."

The proposed rules are still in working draft form, and Cameron said they may undergo extensive revisions. The Elections Board will meet Saturday in a closed work session to discuss revisions and write a new draft. A final draft will be read at a public hearing in the near future before it is sent to University President Paul Olum.

Normally the Elections Board is empowered to draft and enact rules covering the ASUO elections. But because the changes will affect faculty and staff as well as people not directly associated with the University, approval by the University Executive is required in order to enforce them.

Members of the ASUO Executive have discussed the new rules with Olum on two occasions. While Olum has yet to see the current draft, Nelson said he expressed support for

the essence of the document.

Olum hasn't committed himself on specific details; however, he has promised the ASUO to officially announce rules that will restrict ASUO elections to student participation.

"The underlying purpose of these rules is to make sure there is no attempt by outside parties to influence the student elections," Nelson said. "I would like to see that the future student elections are left to students."

## Belts

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the rest of the civilized world" in requiring drivers and passengers to use seat belts.

Monroe cited statistics in the five neighboring western states that now require seat belts showing an 11 percent to 26 percent reduction in fatalities since implementing safety-belt requirements.

The state of Washington saved 50 lives in the first year of required safety belt usage. In that same time period, Oregon had 61 more fatalities than in the previous year.

Exemptions would be provided for people who could obtain valid medical reasons prohibiting seat belt usage. Newspaper and mail route carriers would also be exempt from the law.

Violations of the law would be considered a class D traffic infraction which carries a maximum \$50 fine.

This would not be considered negligence and would not class a multiple offender as a habitual criminal.

Sen. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, said that his support of the bill was based on the overwhelming evidence that such a bill would save lives.

"I understand the personal freedoms issue," Kerans said, "but that argument falls down when society as a whole must pay."

Kerans said the public was burdened with high insurance costs, loss of wages due to injuries and the resultant loss of production.

"Driving is a privilege, not a ride," he said. "It is regulated by fee and license requirements, and this would simply be another form of regulation on that privilege."

Current law requires drivers and passengers under the age of 16 in Oregon to use safety restraints.

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