

Search committee begins process to hire new provost

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

The Provost Search Committee met for the first time March 24, signaling the start of a long selection process that will end when University President Paul Olum chooses a new provost several months from now.

The current provost and vice president for academic affairs, Richard Hill, submitted his resignation in January but will hold the position until he is replaced.

"The provost really is the academic head of the University, and that means (it's) an important job for the entire University, so we'd like the committee that chooses the provost to be broadly representative," Olum said.

Olum appointed the 14 members of the

committee, which includes professors, deans, a University librarian, the superintendent of University printing and the acting director of the Council for Minority Education. The one student on the committee is ASUO Vice President Caitlin Cameron. Theodore Palmer, the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is the chairman of the committee.

The deans of all the colleges within the University report to the provost.

"All questions of appointments to new positions, promotions, tenure, department/college budgets — all of those come to the provost," Olum said. The provost also oversees the Office of Student Affairs and the registrar's office.

The search committee's first meetings

are organizational. Members will begin screening applications for the position starting April 15, a "flexible" deadline for applications, Olum said, estimating as of two weeks ago there were 50 to 60 applications on file.

The search committee, with some input from Olum, will eventually winnow the group of applicants down to four to six finalists. These finalists will be invited to campus for a battery of interviews by "all kinds of people," Olum said. These include the search committee, the president, a faculty group and a student group. Olum will review the reports from the interviewing panels and the search committees.

"And after all of that, I will decide to

make an offer," he said.

There is no fixed salary for provost, but the current provost makes \$79,500 a year.

The job announcement said the position will be available anytime after July 1, but Olum thinks it is unlikely that a successful applicant would be able to leave his or her current job that early. "We're shooting for either September, or more likely Jan. 1," he said.

The current provost cited personal reasons for his resignation. When replaced, Hill plans to take a one-year sabbatical and return to teaching and research in the sociology department, Olum said.

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Auto insurance proposal could change payments

Bills could increase premiums

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

Two bills being considered in the Oregon State Legislature would eliminate sex and marital status as considerations when insurance companies set premium rates for customers.

The unisex insurance bills, SB475 and HB2714, would increase auto insurance premiums for women 25 and under and couples but would decrease premiums for young male drivers according to both proponents and opponents of the bill.

The bills, similar to legislation already in effect in Montana, also may increase health insurance costs for men, women and families, according to Ingrid Brydolf, a legislative assistant for the bills' sponsor, Rep. Nancy Peterson.

Peterson sponsored the bill at the request of the Women's Rights Coalition. Jeanne Atkins, a lobbyist for WRC, said the insurance industry is the last area of the consumer market not regulated by civil rights laws.

The industry claims disparities in rates for men and women are the result of "fair discrimination" based on provable statistical differences, she said. But she noted most people don't realize there is little consistency in how the statistics are applied, and there is no industry

Legislative issues



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