

Group supports SOSOC desire to rename college 'University'

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

What's in a name? The question is cliché but the answer is elusive.

A group of lawmakers and business people from southwest Oregon believe the name of Southern Oregon State College should be changed to Southern Oregon State University.

But the State Board of Higher Education, which governs state colleges and universities, said the Ashland-based school is a college and should stay that way.

The Jackson County Economic Development Council is sponsoring a bill in the Oregon Legislature that would override the State Board's opposition and change the name by law. The curriculum and educational mission at SOSOC would remain the same, only the name would change.

Supporters of the bill say changing the college to a university would help the students, the region and the state.

Liz Shelby, director of the Jackson County EDC, said having a university in the region will help southwest Oregon attract new businesses. When business developers are looking for an area to locate, they often scan a brochure that lists the demographics of a region, Shelby said.

"One of the first questions of many prospective businesspeople is 'Do you have a local university?'" Shelby said. "Too often, the college is mistaken for a community college or business college, rather than the major liberal arts institution that we have."

"The image presented by a university is critical to our ability to address the standard of

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Munion says he knows IFC process best

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Ron Munion may sound blunt when he says he understands the Incidental Fee Committee process better than anyone running, but he believes it.

He attended Lane Community College and was elected student government treasurer. During his time there, he also served on the constitution court, a minorities task force and chaired the Women's Awareness Information Committee.

Since coming to the University four years ago, where he is working toward double major in political science and history, Munion has maintained involvement in student activities. He was chairman of the Model United Nations, a member of the Political Science Student Union and currently serves on both the EMU Board and the IFC.

His position on the IFC during the past year has given him some insight into student government and the budget system which he hasn't always agreed with. He has some definite ideas on how to improve the IFC process which he said would make the allocation of more than \$3 million in student fees quicker and less controversial.

"I would have to say my overall goal is to change the budgetary process so it is more

flexible, more responsible and reflective of the needs of the students," he said.

He also said he believes he would be contributing to diversity and the liberal arts education that is important to many individuals on this campus.

He would achieve this change through a variety of means, he said. He would like to see the IFC expand its staff of hiring budget directors to take some of the workload off members' shoulders.

He also said groups should have more control within their own budgets. Rather than the IFC dictating how much could be spent on each individual line item groups would have a lump sum. As long as program directors know what incidental fees can be used for, he said, the directors should be able to dictate how much goes where.

Munion realizes the IFC is one of the most important bodies at the University and



Ron Munion

understands its role: to see that the physical and cultural development of students is preserved.

"It is not to act like it's God and can decide what is best for everyone," he said.

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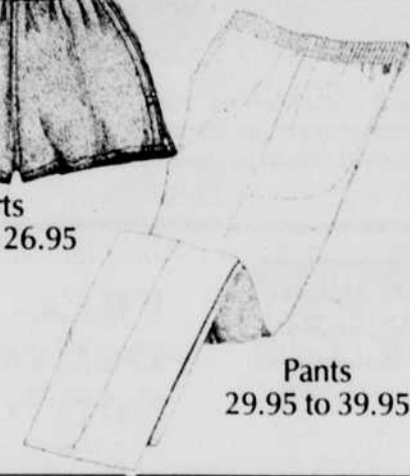
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