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Bill would allow students to profit from fee interest

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Students, not the state, should benefit from interest earned on the incidental fees that students pay each term, according to a bill passed Wednesday by the Oregon Senate Education Committee.

The Oregon Student Lobby sponsored the measure, known as the Student Activities Bill, which will allow interest earned on incidental fees and student health service fees to be returned to student activities.



Legislative issues

Incidental fees are currently invested by the state, and the interest gained from these investments accrues to the State General Fund rather

than to student programs.

The Education Committee voted 4-1 to send the bill to the floor for a Senate vote. Two senators were absent.

Sen. Bill Kennemer, R-Milwaukie, opposed the bill.

Kennemer was concerned that the bill might disturb the budgeting process for the State System of Higher Education because the bill was not referred to the education budgeting committee for a review, according to Barbara Mitchell, Education Committee administrator. Kennemer said students already are receiving the benefits of State General Fund money that is budgeted for higher education.

He worried that passing the bill without a review by the budgeting committee might set a precedent, Mitchell said.

Currently, University students each must pay \$61 per term in incidental fees, which are used to fund the EMU, the Athletic Department and other student-run campus organizations. Student government has broad control over the spending of that \$3 million-a-year fund.

In addition, students also are required to pay fees to support the University Student Health Center.

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New airport tower

Air traffic controller Patricia Viall directs ground traffic from the new tower at Mahlon-Sweet Airport. The tower was dedicated Wednesday in a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Mayor Brian Obie and others.

Photo by Jim Marks

IFC grants funds for new program

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee on Wednesday granted \$4,243 to the Oregon Computing Association in a special request for a pilot program.

The new program, Campus Information Exchange, would provide students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to confer and perform other services by computer, said Gary Wheaton, director of ORCA and chief

organizer of CIE.

The biggest debate of the special request hearing came during the approval of the goals statement. Before receiving funding, the committee must determine if the group contributes to the physical or cultural development of students.

IFC member Bob Baldwin was in full support of the

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District to reopen schools with help of substitutes

By Alicia Gano
Of the Emerald

Eugene schools will reopen the week of April 27 using more than 600 replacement and substitute teachers. School Superintendent Margaret Nichols said Wednesday morning at a press conference.

4-J School District administrators have been "taking longer" to get replacement teachers because they hoped the strike would end soon, Nichols said. A commitment to provide high-quality education has been another factor, she said.

The district is encouraging trained, certified replacement teachers to apply, and 425 applications have been received so far, Nichols said. The district will continue taking applications this week.

The district will interview all replacement applicants next week. Though it will slow school reopenings, it is necessary to ensure quality, Nichols said.

The district has a master list of more than 250 substitutes who signed a contract to work in the event of a strike.

Nichols was concerned about community confusion over what the strike is really about. "The issue is a disparity over money, salary and fringe benefits, not who is at the bargaining table," she



Photo by Bobbie Lo

Striking schoolteachers continued to picket Wednesday, while School Superintendent Margaret Nichols announced schools will reopen the week of April 27.

added Eugene Education Association members who suggest otherwise are just trying to stir up public sentiment.

Nichols tried to clarify the ongoing salary conflict by demonstrating how the district comes up with a 7.9 percent,

two-year increase, while the EEA is suggesting a 24 percent increase over two years.

The total starting budget for the 1985-86 school year, including teacher salaries, fixed charges, additional salary needs and fringe benefits is \$40 million. The district is proposing a \$1.85 million increase in benefits for the 1986-87 school year and a \$1.29 million increase in benefits for the 1987-88 school year. This yields an overall increase of 7.96 percent, relative to the \$40 million starting figure, Nichols said.

The EEA is proposing a \$3.916 million increase in the 1986-87 school year and a \$5.552 million increase in the 1987-88 school year, according to Nichols. This gives teachers a 24 percent increase in total benefits over the next two years, she said.

Nichols said the district's proposal reflects Eugene taxpayers' ability to support the district.

Strikers at South Eugene High School disagree. Wayne Thompson, South Eugene High School strike captain, said the district has a "slush fund" from which to draw money for teacher raises.

Nichols acknowledged the district did

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