

# Editorial

## Changes needed with write-in election rule

According to ASUO election rules, a write-in candidate who receives three votes or more in primary elections is considered a valid candidate. This occurred in last week's elections, and we believe this election rule should be revised.

If there is more than twice the number of candidates as there are available seats in primary elections, then exactly twice the number of candidates to open seats go on to the general election. There were exactly six candidates running for three one-year Incidental Fee Committee positions this year, and the top three candidates normally would have been elected.

But when one of the write-in candidates for the IFC received three votes, the original six candidates found themselves in the general election. Clearly, there is something wrong when one candidate with just three votes can send twice the number of candidates than open positions on to the general election.

The issue is whether write-in candidates with three votes should be considered valid candidates — we don't believe they should. Currently, it is too easy to abuse this three-vote rule. For example, in the case of last week's IFC election, it would have been simple for one of the candidates to ask a few friends to write someone in, thereby forcing the six candidates to the general election.

A more equitable rule would base the validity of a write-in candidate on a percentage of total votes cast. Something like 5 percent seems reasonable. This would make it harder for someone to round up friends to cast write-in votes. Moreover, changing the current write-in rule would remove campus elections from the specter of election fraud.

## Relief could be at hand if Senate Bill 400 passes

With the problem of funding higher education and related campus activities plaguing universities and colleges throughout the state, Senate Bill 400 comes as a welcome piece of legislation.

The bill would allow higher education institutions to receive the interest earned on incidental student and health service fees. Currently, interest earned through student and health service fees is deposited in the State General Fund.

This revenue, estimated at \$170,000, would be distributed proportionately to institutions on the basis of their cash balances.

The bill stipulates that student governments will have authority over which student groups receive these funds. In the case of the University, the Incidental Fee Committee more than likely would distribute this revenue because it is the committee that allocates incidental student fees.

At a time when the University and Oregon State University face the possibility of being removed from the Pacific 10 Conference, this bill may come as a lifesaver. Moreover, other campus groups undoubtedly would gain from this bill as well.

The bill now goes to the House. If the Senate's popular approval of this bill is a yardstick to measure how it will fare in the House, chances are that it will pass with no problem. No doubt this would be good news for student groups on campus.

Graphic by THE INTERIOR DESIGNER  
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"DR. KOOP, LET'S JUST KEEP IT ABOUT SMOKING!"

## Letters

### SPA care

The Child Care and Development Center Parent Council has met to discuss the elections and the possible impact on the program, and would like to pass on the following endorsements.

Ballot Measure 6 would increase the CCDC staff by one and a quarter full-time positions, enabling the program to set up and administer a Westmoreland center, seek private and public grant funding, expand the current program, and improve staff training — in short, to make the services more accessible to student parents.

The program serves approximately 250 student families a week, logging 4,000 child care hours per week. The current staff is running itself ragged trying to meet these needs, which has historically resulted in a high turnover of staff.

Concerning student elections, we would like to lend our endorsement to the SPA candidates. The Steve Nelson administration has bent over backwards to improve child care by setting up a Child Care Task Force to evaluate the pro-

gram and establish recommendations for improvement.

Further, it has moved to establish the task force as an ongoing body composed of students, student parents, faculty and administration to see that these recommendations are carried out. The program is deeply indebted to these individuals and I have no doubt that the current SPA candidates will start up where this year's executive left off.

Jodie Mooney and Sarah Lachkar have expressed strong support for student parents, and we urge those concerned with these issues to vote SPA today.

**Mike Wieber**  
Child Care and Development  
Center  
Parent Council

### Falsify

I have in my hands a letter sent to all Club Sports participants by Glenn J. Jarrett. I was shocked by the letter due to its gross inaccuracies, bordering on the unethical.

Mr. Jarrett states that the SPA-controlled ASUO gave an overall 2.3 percent budget increase to Club Sports for next year.

The blame for not getting the increase that Mr. Jarrett would have preferred lies with the EMU Board which has responsibility for the EMU budget request. The IFC gave an overall 5 percent increase to the EMU, totaling \$1,369,846. How that money is distributed between the EMU programs (including Club Sports) is up to the EMU Board.

Mr. Jarrett also states that the ASUO gave themselves an 11 percent increase. While this number may help Mr. Jarrett's position, it is totally false. The ASUO received a 1 percent increase, as they requested.

Mr. Jarrett asserts that the Athletic Department, Club Sports, Marching Band and the Greeks are joining together to take SPA out of student govern-

ment. If there is any truth to this, I have to wonder if it is because they have been given false information such as that which Mr. Jarrett is distributing.

Mr. Jarrett cites CSRL as those concerned with programs like Club Sports. I certainly hope Kasey Brooks puts a stop to those people campaigning for her with false and misleading propaganda.

**Gwen Roedel**  
Political science

## Counseling

The ODE's April 21 presentation of Ballot Measure 10, concerning funding for the University Counseling Center, seemed incomplete and could have been quite misleading.

What was not reflected in the ODE editorial is that passage of Measure 10 is needed to provide funding for the continuation of several counselor positions.

As stated in the ODE, Measure 10 also seeks to change the way the University Counseling Center student fee is administered by making it a permanent non-incidental fee supervised by a joint student faculty board.

This would not simply "form a new layer of bureaucracy" as suggested in the editorial; rather, it would provide the Counseling Center with the funding necessary to offer counselor positions for three years.

Currently some staff are hired on a one-year basis with their positions being renewed only if students vote for Counseling Center funding each spring. Because of this, it is difficult to retain experienced counselors and to plan and offer services that continue beyond one year.

Passage of Measure 10 would enable the Counseling Center to plan ahead, maintain continuity of important programs and keep experienced staff.

**Heather Holland**  
Student

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