

employer, therefore this issue is a big concern to the county. "We have a popular president with the University and the community," he said. "And we do not want to see a destabilization of this University which will lead to years and years of instability." Rust added that Olum has been an outspoken president and fighter for the University and his dismissal would be a "travesty and a triumph for mediocrity."

Don Williams of the Alumni Association emphasized that Olum's energy and overt concern for the faculty, students and the University are the qualities that have attracted the support of every single organization. He added that well over 100,000 alums are solidly behind Olum, and that he is not only well-liked, but trusted and respected as well.

Linda Williams, representing the Greek system, stressed the respect that students feel for Olum. "Paul Olum made the University what it is today," she said. "Why should we lose our strongest leader?" Williams also questioned why four board members should be able to make a decision that affects 18,000 students.

Similarly, English department Chairman Paul Armstrong termed the board's decision "the deepest tragedy," as it was made without consulting the individuals who are most interested and on whom it will make the biggest impact.

Organization representatives who spoke at the rally stressed how inappropriately the executive board acted in making such an "undemocratic, backroom" decision. In addition to the lack of democracy, the legality of the decision was questioned as well.

Associate journalism professor Tim Gleason said in an interview that according to the Oregon Public Meetings Law, a committee such as the executive board of higher education that is planning a meeting must publicly state the time, place and topics to be discussed. Then, during the course of this meeting a vote can be held to determine the necessity of holding a closed executive ses-

sion to deliberate on a specific subject. But, even in a closed session, some type of records must be kept, Gleason said. When some type of consensus is reached in private, a formal recommendation would have to be made in public.

"What we're lacking is any record of when Olum was asked to retire. This is exactly the kind of thing that law is supposed to stop," he said.

When asked about this deci-

sion by rallying students in front of Susan Campbell Hall, State System of Higher Education Chancellor William Davis stated that, "it was a discussion over lunch in which retirement dates were discussed." He added that he supported the board's right to make a decision, and he was sorry it couldn't be made in a "dignified and graceful manner."

"We're not opposed to Dr. Olum. We just need to make a change," he said.



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