

undergraduate education at the University is undervalued and said the blame ultimately rests with Olum, even though the faculty determines course curriculum.

"He's the president — the buck stops there when ques-

tions of quality come up," Petersen said.

He also speculated that had the board voted on Olum's fate during Friday's meeting, the board would have stuck with its June 30, 1989 retirement date.

"My feeling from the

statements that I heard was that it would not have been a positive vote for Dr. Olum," Petersen said.

Kasey Brooks, ASUO president and state board member, was not satisfied with the board's move to postpone the vote until Wednesday. She was the only board member to vote against delaying the decision.

"I was kind of shocked, actually... because he (Petersen) said that they were going to make this motion and it wasn't debatable — I had no idea they were going to postpone the action," Brooks said.

Brooks also said the board owed it to the people who attended the meeting to vote on the issue in public. "There were a lot of people there that were concerned enough to show up — I don't think it's fair to do it (vote on retirement issue) on a phone conference call," she said.

Petersen deemed the board's postponement as a "damned if you do, and damned if you don't" situation, and denied the allegation that the board refused to vote on the Olum issue because it felt intimidated by the large, vocal crowd attending the meeting.

Petersen said he believes

board members were not ready to vote on Friday because "they wanted more information," and added that the full board had yet to review letters from alumni around the state concerning Olum's retirement.

"People say we didn't vote because we didn't want to do it in front of a group, and had we voted, others would have said 'Hey, you never listened from my input,'" Petersen said.

Despite Petersen's prediction that the board probably will retire Olum in 1989, Brooks reserved speculation about whether board members will rescind the executive committee's decision.

After the meeting faculty and administrators looked on as more than 100 students held an impromptu rally outside the EMU Forum Room. Frustration over the state board's deliberations showed on the faces of angry students who chanted "Keep Paul Olum" and "What goes on behind closed doors."

Speaking through a megaphone, University student Randy MacDonald called for an organizational meeting today at 3:30 in the Forum Room to plan students' next course of action.

Petersen, when asked if he thought the board was reluctant

to swallow its pride on an issue that most throughout the state regard as an unwise decision, reiterated what he said during the meeting and called the board's move to retire Olum in 1989 "a wise decision."

Moreover, Petersen said support for Olum is not necessarily state wide. "I've just gone through my mail again and 99 percent of it is from the Eugene area," Petersen said.

"I don't think the board swells with pride about the decision it has made. It's not a matter of pride, it's a matter of judgment, really," Petersen said.

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drugs. We should be innocent until proven guilty, not guilty until proven innocent," Semeniuk said.

Athletes weren't the only ones who questioned how the policy started — some coaches expressed curiosity.

"I first heard about it when Chris talked to the team. She instigated the talk when she sent a memo indicating what the meeting would be about," tennis coach Sue Jacobson said.

Jacobson added that she fully supported the program but knew of no one on the team who talked about voluntary drug testing beforehand.

This seems to be a common trend in the women's athletic department, as all coaches, which includes volleyball, basketball, cross country, track, golf, and tennis, said they personally did not go to Voelz to start the policy. They also said they didn't know anyone on their team that instigated the

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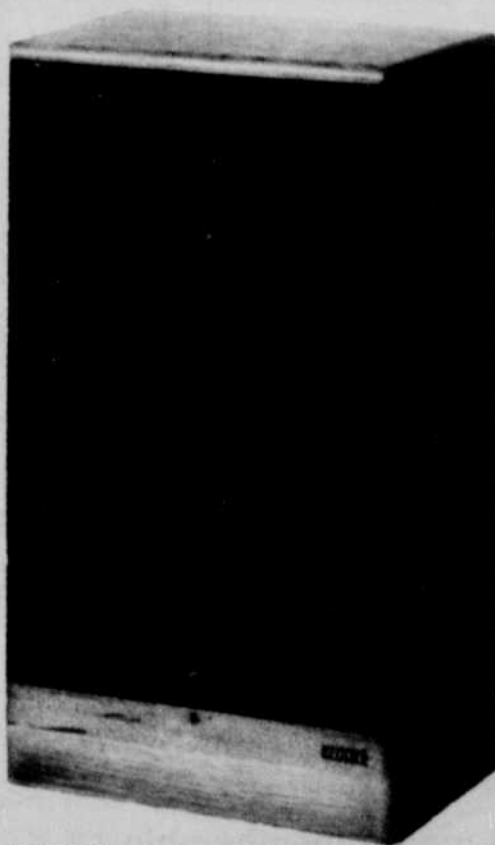
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