Mediation

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about two-thirds of the parents counseled eventually reached an agreement before going to court.

Getting to an agreement, though, can take hard work.

The initial meeting is often tense and emotions run high, she said. A few times, Lee has had to physically separate people who come close to blows, she added.

"The idea is they only have to try mediation," Lee said. "You can't force people to make an agreement obviously."

However, most parents are willing to put aside such feelings for the benefit of their children, and that's why the program works, she said. Even if parents don't agree, they often learn to communicate better about their children, Lee said.

Circuit Court Judge Gregory Foote agreed the program is beneficial.

"Whatever they come up with and whatever I come up with, (parents) are the ones who have to make it work," Foote said. "I can decide who gets custody, and I can decide what the visitation schedule is going to be and all that, but they have to make it work. There is a much better chance that it will succeed if it is something they have agreed to and come up with and are committed to."

Senate

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cuses the state board and its chancellor of forcing President Olum's retirement "without any initial consultation with the faculty and students of the University, and over repeated expressions of protest from the faculty, students, staff, alumni and alumnae, and friends of the University."

The resolution also states that the state board and the chancellor "as a group declined to engage in reasoned dialogue," have "acted in defiance of testimony that their action will bring enduring injury to the University," have "provided the citizens of the State of Oregon with no credible reasons for their action," and have indicated through their action "their lack of confidence" in the University community and friends.

ASUO Vice President Karen Gaffney presented a letter from the Student Senate accusing the Executive Committee of the state board of "abusing the spirit...of the Open Public Meetings Law," and that by withholding information from the public, "has made a mockery of the open public process."

Gaffney's letter also resolved that the Student Senate has declared "no confidence" in either the state board as a policy-making body, or in the chancellor and the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Law professor James O'Fallon also presented a personal letter drafted and sent to Goldschmidt concerning the state board's compliance with the open meetings, open records and age discrimination laws.

He noted that state law requires that the state board's accountability for its actions lies with Goldschmidt.

O'Fallon stated, "...when serious questions regarding the board's exercise of its authority arise, it is the duty of the governor to enquire whether cause for removal exists," adding, "The one thing he (Goldschmidt) cannot do is refuse to deal with this situation because it is political."

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