

Oregon Daily Emerald

Monday, November 30, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 89, Number 62

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Board reveals reasons behind Olum retirement

By Scott Maben
Emerald Managing Editor

University President Paul Olum is being forced to retire in 1989 because he does not have the support of all the University's constituencies, the State Board of Higher Education hinted last week.

This opinion was suggested by board president James Petersen in a letter to Olum released on Wednesday. The letter, reviewed and approved by board members, was intended to "clarify a number of matters related to the board's decision."

It said the board was "fully aware" of faculty and student opinions expressed at the time of its decision. "... However, a university president also needs the support of other constituencies to effectively manage such a complex institution," the letter stated.

Further insight as to why some board members oppose letting Olum remain president until his preferred retirement date of June 30, 1992, was provided in a confidential statement authorized by Petersen and given to Olum in a private meeting on Nov. 22.

Board members believe Olum's style often challenges the judgment of those people whose support he needs, according to the statement. "Such behavior often antagonizes those being criticized."

"The board's ability to act as an effective advocate between the University and those who provide the



Paul Olum

resources to distribute is being diminished by the effect of your style of leadership," which, in time, will "adversely affect the resources" for the State System of Higher Education, the statement reads.

Those who provide the resources, according to the statement, include the Chancellor, the board, the governor, leaders of Oregon's Legislature, leaders of the other institutions within the state system, Oregon's delegates to the Congress and Oregon's taxpayers.

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Lottery distribution disputed

By Christopher Blair
Emerald Contributor

Since its inception in 1985, the Oregon Lottery has come to mean more to the state than scratch tickets and instant millionaires, and plans dealing with the use of its profits have become the subject of debate between state and Lane County officials.

While one half of the money generated from ticket sales — \$101 million in fiscal-year 1987 alone — goes to paying jackpot winners, and 16 percent pays for the administrative and other expenses for running the lottery itself, the remaining 34 percent is turned over to the state's Economic Development Fund.

The EDF distributes the lottery profits to other state agencies, who in turn manage economic development projects at the state, county and local level. It is this distribution of funds that has caused the dispute between state and county officials.

When Gov. Neil Goldschmidt was campaigning for the governor's chair, he endorsed a plan called "Oregon Comeback," a strategy for economic recovery from the recession of the early 1980s.

One part of the Oregon Comeback plan is the Regional Strategies Fund, a project the Oregon Legislature appropriated \$25 million dollars of lottery funds to during its 1987 session to be distributed on the basis of county populations.

RSF funds are to be distributed to counties with local plans for economic development. However, the RSF process requires counties to submit their plans to the state for approval. If approved by the governor, the county then would receive its requested share of the RSF money. If rejected, the county would have to revise and resubmit the plan.

Lane County has found itself in the midst of conflict between the governor

and county government in the allocation of those funds. Trouble between Goldschmidt and Lane County Commissioner Steve Cornacchia began at a meeting of the Association of Oregon Counties in Seaside on Nov. 20. Cornacchia charged distribution methods are inadequate.

After deducting \$6 million for administrative and reserve costs, \$7.5 million was given to Portland's regional strategies plan for the construction of an \$85 million convention center in the Portland Metropolitan area.

Although the convention center money given to the Portland tri-county area was less than what it normally would have received, Cornacchia said 40 percent of the total sum should not automatically be granted to Portland.

"My concern was that those of us in the outlying counties have to go through a process of advice and consent," Cornacchia said. "We send in a proposal which they either accept or reject, and Portland automatically receives the funds for its convention center."

Cornacchia also had questions about the \$1.9 million Lane County was to receive for its regional strategy, the proposed Riverfront Research Park.

"When the governor uses the phrase 'Oregon Comeback,' I'm assuming he means a comeback from the recession. But we keep hearing about how the recession passed over Portland. I wanted to know why it is Portland gets \$7.5 million and Lane County gets \$1.9 million," Cornacchia said.

In order for the Goldschmidt-endorsed Riverfront Research Park to come to fruition, Cornacchia said the \$1.9 million in lottery revenues would have to be supplemented by highway funds from Lane, Benton and Douglas counties.

Goldschmidt reportedly became angry

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Oregon faces challenges after bouts with fires

By Roland Giller
Emerald Contributor

After burning for more than two months and scorching 96,540 acres of forest land, the Silver Complex Fire in the Siskiyou National Forest was placed in a controlled status on Nov. 9.

While this represents the successful efforts of thousands of dedicated firefighters, U.S. Forest Service officials now are faced with the tremendous task of reforestation of this and other National Forest lands within the state lost to fire, collectively representing over 170,000 acres.

According to Phillip Jaspers, reforestation forester for the Willamette National Forest, the two Oregon National Forests that were hardest hit by last summer's fires were the Umpqua in Douglas County and the Siskiyou located in Josephine and Curry counties. The Umpqua lost 9,637 acres to fire while the Siskiyou lost 111,456 acres on the Silver, Longwood and Galice fire complexes.

The task of reforestation on the two forests will consist of a two-step process. The first step, the initial rehabilitation process, began immediately after the fires were controlled. A team of forest service natural resource specialists, including soil scientists, geologists, wildlife biologists and silviculturists, assessed the condition of the areas and established rehabilitation plans.

One of the primary objectives of this plan is the immediate preparation of land to prevent extreme soil erosion by winter precipitation. This usually is done through large-scale planting of vegetation such as or-



Graphic by Lorraine Rath

chard grass, clover, wheat or rye, which will grow quickly in the fall and help prevent soil erosion during the winter and spring.

Trenches also must be dug into the numerous bulldozer and handcrew firelines to prevent large amounts of water from collecting.

The initial rehabilitation process alone is very expensive and has forced forest service officials on the Siskiyou to request emergency funding from the federal

government. Already, \$400,000 in rehabilitation funds have gone to the Silver Complex, \$100,000 to the Galice Complex and \$305,000 to the Longwood Complex.

The second step of reforestation is the recovery process. It normally lasts two to three years and consists mostly of the planting and caring of conifer seedlings.

Because 51,000 acres of the Silver Complex lie within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area, the recovery effort in the Siskiyou National Forest has taken on an interesting aspect. Mike Ferris, information officer for the Silver Fire Recovery Project, explained forest service policy regarding minimum impact in wilderness areas includes reforestation efforts after a fire.

According to Ferris, the only initial rehabilitation work to be conducted in the Kalmiopsis will consist mostly of trenching in firelines and natural seeding where necessary to protect land bordering the wilderness area.

Because recovery and restoration of forest resources in the Silver recovery area involve such issues as how much of an estimated 175 million board feet of fire damaged but salvagable timber will be harvested, the project has gathered much

public interest.

Forest service activities concerning the biological and physical environment are regulated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which governs federal actions in dealing with the environment. The NEPA process is comprehensive, but also allows for considerable decision making in the reforestation pro-

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