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in the way it conducts business.

Other coalition members include ASUO Vice President Karen Gaffney, ASUO Executive Coordinator Susan Sowards, two University students, a faculty member, and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation.

When told of the coalitions efforts, Oregon higher education Chancellor William "Bud" Davis said the coalition did not have a case against the state board. Davis claimed any discrepancies by the executive committee were resolved by the meetings held in November.

"If there was anything technically wrong (with the executive committee meetings) it was corrected in the open meeting — I don't think they have a case," Davis said.

Three state board executive committee members, board President James Petersen, Vice President Richard Hensley and Gene Chao refused to comment on the alleged violations.

"I really believe they (the allegations) are incorrect," said Wilma Foster, state board secretary.

According to Foster, minutes never were kept at executive committee meetings before Oct. 16, 1987, and agendas often were not included in the meeting notices because issues came up at the last minute. Meetings that took place last fall were conducted properly and made up for any earlier breaches of open meeting laws, Foster said.

This explanation matched the one given by the state attorney general's office:

"Since the full board had two meetings which were duly noticed and fully re-

ported... that means, at least in our view, that that was a proper and legal action (concerning Olum)," said Phil Lemman, a spokesman for the attorney general's office.

The manner in which the executive committee conducted earlier meetings "had no adverse effect on Dr. Olum," Davis said, adding that the board made its final decision in an open meeting.

However, coalition members expressed confidence they would win in a lawsuit. Gaffney rated the chances of success at eight on a scale of one to 10.

"I don't see why we will not win," Rust said, and added the legal battle simply will be a matter of waiting for victory and then suing the defendants for attorney fees.

And if the coalition wins, it will seek "equitable relief," which would mean overturning the state board's vote to retire Olum early.

Gaffney stressed that the ASUO will not participate in a lawsuit because the ASUO uses state funds, which cannot be used in suing a state organization. However, the ASUO will aid the coalition in activities such as letter-writing campaigns, Gaffney said.

"If those people (the state board members) don't conduct their business in an open way, then we'll lose all over again," Gaffney stated.

Gaffney is concerned, though, that a state board angered by the coalition's legal efforts could retaliate in the future — taking away student control of the Incidental Fee Committee, for example.

The ASUO's student fee com-

mittee is responsible for allocating over \$3 million in student incidental fees to various student organizations. The state board has the power to veto any allocation. However, this power has not been used in the recent past.

The impending lawsuit places ASUO President Kasey Brooks, a state board member, in a delicate position — one she calls "awkward." Brooks said students' efforts to reform the state board are "positive," but she wasn't sure if a case could

be made against the state board.

"I don't know, that's something nobody has been able to figure out," Brooks said about the accusations.

Other coalition plans include a public forum, the topic being the future of higher education after Olum. Participants will include State Senator Larry Hill, Gaffney, a representative of the GTFF, University professors and possibly board member John Alltucker. The forum will be held Jan. 26, 7 p.m., at Harris Hall.



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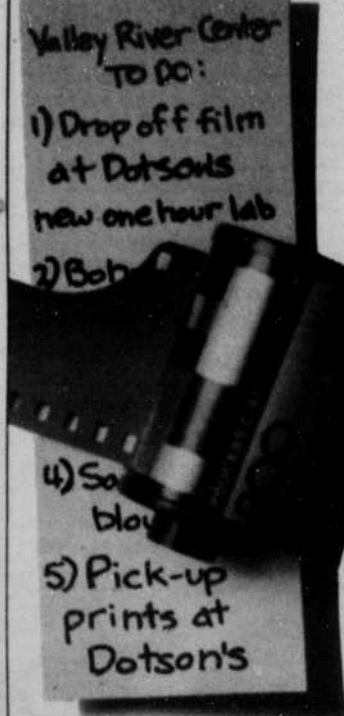
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Democrats

pens with the Issues Forum, MacDonald said the UD and CRs will work together after the May 17 Oregon Primary Election.

But working with the CRs may be a challenge for MacDonald and the UD. The UD is a new organization, just having been resurrected this fall. Although MacDonald said he is happy with the turnout at UD meetings, he admits the CRs are a larger, better-funded organization. Twenty-five people attended the last UD meeting; MacDonald has a list of about 150 people who expressed interest in Democratic politics, and he has registered about 250 voters at a table outside McArthur Court during registration.

Unlike the CRs, the UD receives no funding from the county party headquarters, which means they rely on donations and funds raised from bake sales. However, this allows them to be more autonomous from the county organization. MacDonald said the UD platform virtually is identical to that of the county organization, but they would not hesitate to differ, especially on student issues.

"By having some independence as far as our platform, we want to influence that national party," MacDonald said. "We intend to make our voices as loud as possible."

The UD's policy is to not support any one Democratic candidate, but to act as a forum for all of them. MacDonald said that this doesn't stop UD workers from having their own

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views. For himself, MacDonald said he would like to see a Paul Simon/Jesse Jackson ticket.

The Democrats have their work cut out for them, MacDonald claimed, because the Republicans are funded better and can afford to buy more publicity.

"The Republicans are the party of the rich and of the entrenched political powers," he said.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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