

City leaders should be paid for their job

University student and Eugene mayoral candidate Sean Smith has pointed out an interesting problem during his campaign for office. Currently, the job of mayor is volunteer work. There is an expense account for meals and trips to conventions, but the mayor doesn't get paid a salary for the considerable work involved. Nor do any of the eight city councilors.

His contention, and that of Nina Lovinger, president of the South University Neighborhood Association, is that the lack of salary means that only the well-off with outside business interests can afford the sacrifice to run for office. "We don't have democratic representation here," Lovinger said.

The responsibilities of mayor and city councilor require about 20-30 hours in office time. That commitment hurts any chance of earning enough to survive on another job. It also creates a part-time approach to the office. If a public official must spend part of his or her day earning money, that makes him or her less accessible during the day to the constituents.

A study available through the Eugene City Manager's office entitled "Measures of Excellence" also points out that Eugene lags behind other West Coast cities of similar size in paying public officials. For example, Boise, Idaho, and Hayward, Calif., both offer salaries to their mayors and councilors. Some smaller communities do as well, such as Bellevue, Wash., Santa Barbara, and Santa Monica, Calif.

The salary bandied about by Smith, Lovinger and others is \$12,000 a year for the mayor and councilors. That figure is not unreasonable. Bud Clark, mayor of Portland, a city five times as populous as Eugene, earns more than \$65,000 a year. The proposed salary is about the same as that of a state legislator.

The mayor and councilors are responsible for a city budget in excess of 150 million dollars. Their combined salary of \$96,000 would be one-fifteenth of one percent of that budget. With so much responsibility, they clearly deserve payment for their services.

Conduct recommendations would benefit the students

The Student Conduct Committee deserves plaudits for its recommendation to change conduct code articles regarding discrimination and academic dishonesty. The committee acted on these matters on Monday.

If their changes pass the University and Student Senates, as they should, then discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status or religion would become an offense subject to the jurisdiction of the University's disciplinary code. One wonders why this was never spelled out before in the conduct code, but in this case it is "better late than never."

The change in the procedure for faculty members filing cases of academic cheating would also be a blessing for students. Currently, faculty members must file cases no later than two weeks after grades come out, often catching students during their winter or summer breaks. If the SCC's recommendation passes, then the filing would have to occur no later than two weeks after a faculty and student conference.



Letters

More on KWAX

Exactly who is running KWAX, the University station? The ODE reported earlier this term that 10-12 University students work at KWAX each quarter. When one takes into consideration that KWAX is a University station, 10-12 students a term is pathetic. KALX, the University of California at Berkeley radio station where I have worked as a volunteer, regularly has 40-50 students working for the station and helping to run it.

The problem is made worse when one sees that the University is also being outdone by a local high school. KRVM (91.9 FM) offers high school students live air time to play records and read the news, two things not offered to University students at KWAX. KRVM also broadcasts Sheldon High School basketball games while KALX does Cal football, basketball and baseball games.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to call a football game for KALX; ironically enough, it was when Cal played the Ducks last fall.

It really upsets me to think of all the students, myself included, who are being robbed of valuable experience. Journalism majors could be getting the experience of writing news to be

read on the air and business majors could help out with the financial duties of the station. But, none of this is to be since KWAX receives all of its news from outside sources and only allows a few "select" students to gain valuable experience at the station.

Given these problems, it's time for the students and professors of the University to organize and make a change.

Simon Thaler
Telecommunications and film

Positions

I oppose the Riverfront Research Park site, and not the idea of a research park. The area should be preserved for recreational use only.

I realize the University and the city of Eugene are separate entities. When I spoke of the parking situation on campus, I meant I would do my best to work with University officials to alleviate this situation. Overzealous meter maids are not the answer.

I do not support any industry that manufactures nuclear weapons or parts for nuclear weapons or reactors.

I see nothing wrong with having a businessman as mayor, just as long as the person is paid and does the job on a full-time basis. At this point the mayor and the city council are not paid for doing their jobs. It is time for a fundamental change in the city government of Eugene; it is time for the mayor and the city council to be paid for doing their jobs. This way, anyone will have the opportunity to govern, not just the wealthy. The \$12,000 figure I cited is a salary. Currently, those who can afford to be in a city office, file for candidacy. Those who cannot afford it, do not. I believe this creates a domination of power for the wealthy, and an elite city government.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

We live in the second largest city in Oregon, and we should set a better example for the rest of the state.

As Frank Zappa once wrote, don't forget to register to vote!

Sean E. Smith
Telecommunications and Film

Greek praise

There are changes going on in the Greek community that are not represented by the problems that Beta Theta Pi fraternity is currently having.

I first noticed the changes when I was the Incidental Fee Committee representative to the Interfraternity Council last year. What I found was individuals who were working hard and diligently to improve the Greek system, and these changes were ones of substance and not fluff. Among the changes was the implementation of Impact Training to deal with the problem of alcohol abuse by some of the houses.

It is true that there are problems within the Greek system, but these problems are not being ignored. The implementation of the Tribunal Prosecutors that monitor house activities is another example of positive improvement started by the Greeks.

Even the Betas have tried to solve their own problems. It is no secret that troublemakers within the fraternity were recently removed. For this forceful action the Betas should be commended.

Even though I am not a Greek, my dealings with them in the past have proved to me that they serve a very important function at the University. Among the values that they teach their members are: cooperation between members, service through their community volunteer work and a feeling of belonging to something important that they instill in all new members.

The Greeks are working diligently to solve their own problems, and for that, there should be praise and not ridicule.

Ron Munion
Former IFC member

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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