

Educators to 'salvage' ex-semester conversion

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Reporter

Opponents and proponents of the semester conversion plan believe educators must move forward and salvage what they can from curricula reform now that the conversion plan has been discarded.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) voted in early December to scrap the planned transition to a semester system in favor of the current quarterly academic calendar.

At the time, board members cited several reasons for the reversal including the lack of consensus on the part of students and faculty.

"It is the opinion of the board that a consensus could not be reached on the semester system," OSBHE President Richard Hensley said following

the board's decision.

Faculty and administrators who spent about 150,000 hours planning new curricula to fit into the semester schedule were very critical of the vote reversing the board's two-year-old decision to convert to semesters.

"A lot of faculty I know are still angry because they put in a lot of hard work planning for the conversion," said Mavis Mate, history department head and semester coordinator for the University.

Mate agrees a consensus on the calendar and between faculty and student groups had not been reached. However, she said a compromise on the main issues of converting to semesters was in the making when the OSBHE reversed directions on the proposal.

Mate also is critical of the fact the decision was based on

other non-academic issues.

Pressure from outside groups, including agricultural and industrial groups, and from members of the legislature influenced the board's decision, Hensley said in December.

"The decision did not appear to be done for wholly academic reasons," Mate said. "Ultimately, the decision should have been based on academic reasons."

Not all educators, however, were disturbed by the vote to keep the present quarterly system.

"I feel that the journalism school is generally better off under the quarter system because of the nature of the program," said Arnold Ismach, School of Journalism dean.

Furthermore, Ismach said he doesn't believe the hours spent on the conversion have turned out to be wasted time. The conversion plan forced faculty to closely examine the present curricula at the University and make reforms, he said.

"I disagree with those people saying educators wasted a lot of hours planning to convert to semesters," he said. "We will get some benefit from those hours."

Mate echoed much of the same message. "I'm hoping the various departments are able to save some of the changes made," she said.

"The thing to do now is to look forward," Mate said. "Faculty shouldn't get discouraged because of wasted effort, but they should be encouraged for curriculum reform."

Union's past now on file at University

Records of the International Woodworkers of America are now available at the Knight Library are now available for research, the library staff announced.

The records of the international union, which span 1936 to 1987, fill nearly 600 linear feet in the Special Collections department of the library. They include correspondence, minutes, proceedings, negotiation files, expired contracts, legal and financial documents, and officer and departmental records.

The collection is the result of a year-long project that began in the fall of 1987 to organize and describe IWA records, according to George Shipman, University librarian.

"This is a collection of great historical significance to the University and to other scholars," Shipman said.

"Faculty from the Labor Education and Research Center, the Institute of Industrial Relations, and the departments of history, sociology, economics and the Canadian Studies program have expressed strong support for the University's acquisition of this vast and complete collection of valuable primary resource material," he added.

The records were donated to the University in July 1987 upon division of the international union into two national unions. One is based in Canada and the other has headquarters in Gladstone.

Well documented, according to Shipman, are the union's basic activities in such areas as organizing, negotiating, litigation and strikes.

SETA gathers today at 4

MEETINGS

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals meets today at 4 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room D.

UO/University of El Salvador Sister University Project meets tonight at 6 in EMU Cedar Room E. The meeting will be followed by a poster-making party at 7 p.m. near EMU Suite

Et als

1 for the Wake up America Inauguration Rally (Jan. 20).

Men Against Rape meets tonight at 7 in EMU Maple Room. All those interested are encouraged to attend.

The University Democrats meets today at 3:30 in EMU Suite 1. All members should attend.

Druids meets tonight at 7 in EMU Century Room B. All members are encouraged to attend.

College Republican meets tonight at 5 in EMU Century Room D. Floyd Beam, 4th district party chairman, will speak about his position.

Land, Air, Water meets tonight at 7:30 in the Survival Center in EMU Suite 1. Students interested in forest, wild-

life and ocean environmental issues are invited to attend.

The Gay Men's Rap Group, which provides informative discussion for non-heterosexual men in a supportive atmosphere, meets tonight at 7:30 in the Koinonia Center Lounge at 1414 Kincaid St.

MISCELLANEOUS

"**Avalanche**" is the title of a discussion about its hazards, techniques for minimizing risks and rescue procedures by Jim Blanchard tonight at 7 in Geology Room 150.

"**Moving Over Stone**" is the title of a rock-climbing video presented by the Outdoor program today at 12:30 p.m. in the Outdoor Program office, located in the EMU basement.

AIDS — A Social Update is a forum sponsored by the Oregon Public Health Student Association today at 4 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. The forum will focus on non-medical issues and features Oregon Health Division Administrator Kristine Gebbie and Eugene attorney Gretchen Miller.

Bible study sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center is tonight at 7:30, 1850 Emerald St.



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REGISTER: January 16-20 at the EMU Rec Center or any residence hall, or call 686-3733.

PRELIMINARIES: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, and Tuesday, Feb. 7.

FINALS: Wednesday, February 8.

COST: \$2 person or \$8 for a team.

College Bowl T-Shirts provided by Pepsi