

Senate updated on racism and enrollment

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Reporter

In its meeting yesterday, the University Senate voted to approve the minutes from its Dec. 14 meeting.

Senate members were not presented any other motions to discuss and vote on, although three motions were introduced for future consideration.

In the place of usual senate business, representatives from the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Presidential Search Committee updated senate members on their various efforts.

University Provost Norman Wessells also addressed the senate on issues ranging from increased enrollment at the University to the ever-present problem of racism.

"We must be much more aware of racism and take more initiative against this problem," Wessells said.

Wessells said the composition of a task force to deal with the issue of racism will be announced next week.

Committee members present findings

Concerning the increase in the student population, Wessells reported a 4 to 5 percent rise in enrollment this term as compared to figures from last year.

Wessells estimates the University has already spent an additional

Presidential Search Committee member Glenn Starlin updated the senate on the committee's efforts to find a replacement for retiring University President Paul Olum.

Starlin said the process is on schedule and the committee

The OSBHE discontinued the planned transition to the semester academic schedule last month, making previous curricula conversion motions obsolete, said Senate President David Povey.

The other two draft motions called for the formation of two committees by the senate to deal with grievances and promotion appeals.

The proposed Promotion/Tenure/Retention Appeal Committee would consist of representatives elected by the University Assembly who

would hear complaints dealing with the denial of a promotion or tenure to University employees.

Senate members also considered forming a Faculty Grievance Committee to hear formal complaints and advise the president on what action to take.

Some discussion occurred over whether the grievance committee should be composed entirely of faculty or have one member representing administration.

All three motions will be discussed again and voted on during the next senate meeting, Povey said.

'Probably by the end of spring term the University will have spent an extra \$400,000 on extra courses'

-Norman Wessells

ditional \$285,000 on extra courses and instructors to handle the increase in enrollment.

"Probably by the end of spring term the University will have spent an extra \$400,000 on extra courses," Wessells said.

"We're just going to have to try better next year," he said. "Even if we restrict next year's freshman class, there will be an enrollment problem."

hopes to present a list of three to five finalists for the position to the chancellor's office and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) by April 21 for the board's regularly scheduled meeting.

One of the three motions introduced for the Feb. 8 meeting dealt with the reversal of all motions approved by the senate for conversion to the semester system.

Phone threat against GALA volunteer spurs a call for protection, awareness

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Associate Editor

Scenario: It's Sunday and a new male volunteer was working in the Gay and Lesbian Alliance office. At 5:40 p.m. the phone rang.

He answered, only to hear a guttural voice growl, "I'm going to come up there and kill you."

Shaken, he dropped the phone and contacted the Office of Public Safety, but was told by the officer on duty to do one of two things — leave the office and go home, or call the Eugene police department on Monday and request a phone tap.

Sound like a scene from a mystery novel? It isn't.

But it is an example of the numerous prank calls GALA receives daily. Only this time, the call was a death threat — not the everyday run-of-the-mill obscene phone call, GALA co-director Jennifer Bills said.

Many of the calls are left on the office's answering machine and often directed to the entire group, making it easier for group members to desensitize themselves to them, Bills said.

The Sunday call to the male volunteer, who asked to be un-

named, was different.

"When you are new and are working alone and you receive a death threat, of course you'll freak out," Bills said.

The situation is not helped when the only type of response received from Campus Security is a lukewarm one, she said.

The alternatives given to the volunteer were not alternatives and no offer of police protection or assistance of any kind was made, Bills added. "For all anyone knows, the caller may have been in the building."

According to a GALA news release, the department's handling of the situation was "indicative of the lack of awareness public officials have about the seriousness of anti-gay, hate violence."

What it boils down to is that "the situation was poorly handled," Bills said.

According to Marj Bigelow, swing shift supervisor, Campus Security "has never denied anyone's — male or female — request for an escort."

"The department is not discriminatory," Bigelow said. "All members of the University community — staff, student or faculty member — have the privilege of being escorted, and if the situation is life-threatening, we will escort them to

their homes."

The problem arises in the department's policy regarding escorts, which states that a person must request an escort before one can be assigned.

"We don't automatically know what (callers) want," Bigelow said. "They need to tell us. Unfortunately, clairvoyance was not part of the job description."

The question that arises is fairness of "placing the burden on the victim."

"It is not common knowledge that a person can ask for an escort," Bills said. "Besides, if you are a victim of a crime, you are not thinking too clearly."

As a result of the incident, Campus Security has agreed to inform callers, especially those involved in a potentially life-threatening situation, that they have the option of being escorted to their homes. The department also has agreed to participate in a homophobia workshop, Bills said.

In addition, GALA is considering installing a phone tap on their office phone.

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