

# Student Senate seeks visibility

By Andrew Nachison  
Emerald Contributor

The Student Senate met for the first time this term Thursday night in the EMU, resolving nothing but discussing several goals for the upcoming year.

## Student Senate

The 16 senators who attended the meeting agreed that improving the senate's visibility on campus has to be one of the major objectives of the student representatives this fall.

"I think that more people need to recognize we're here," Student Senator Kim Cooper said. "We're elected to serve the students and we can't if they don't know what we're here to do."

Although the Student Senate, with representatives from all the departments and schools on campus, has no actual power, it makes up one-third of the University Senate. Faculty members make up the rest of the University Senate.

University Senate resolutions carry significant weight in policy decisions on campus. With greater visibility, members of the Student Senate hope for more impact as well.

"Once people start coming to us and realizing we're available for help, that's when we're going to have the biggest impact," Cooper said. "Right now we can sit around here and generate a lot of ideas with 16 people. With 18,000 people we can generate a lot more."

"The Student Senate is really the voice of the students," senator Kevin Ian Pedigo said. "If there's disharmony, this is where the ball starts rolling. This is where it starts."

"I see the Student Senate accomplishing wonderful things this year," Pedigo said. "I think that we can accomplish what the student's want us to accomplish, and that's our major objective."

No motions were passed at Thursday's meeting, but a variety of objectives were discussed. Last year, the Student Senate passed a resolution urging the new University President to establish a permanent student position on the Institu-

tional Animal Care and Use Committee. Chairperson Tiffany Weed said she wanted to press this resolution.

The issue of funding higher education with lottery profits was brought up during the meeting, and it was suggested that the Student Senate investigate it further. Like all suggestions raised at the meeting, this was met with informal approval, but no official decision to proceed further.

The only decision made at the meeting was to change the Thursday meeting time of the Student Senate from 6:30 p.m. to 6.

Registration was another major topic of discussion during the meeting. Senator Jeff Johnson said that when he went to register, half the courses he wanted to sign up for were already closed. When he went to class the first day, half the students were sitting on the floor.

Weed said her main objective

is "to get something done, to accomplish something. I know that sounds really general. Last year we got the resolution passed about the animal care and use committee. We want to multiply that, so when a reporter comes to a meeting next year we can say we accomplished this, this, this and this."

"If we had enough grievances on a certain topic, it might go up to the top administrator so that they could do something about it," senate secretary Tiffany Davidson said. "This isn't like high school. We pay to go here and should have power in changing it if we don't like the way things are."

Davidson hopes the Student Senate will work with campus groups such as Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Men Against Rape to achieve changes at the University.

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