

Second open forum facilitates discussion

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

Mandatory student health insurance, homophobia and chemical dumping on the site of the Riverfront Research Park were the dominant topics of discussion during the second open forum with University President Myles Brand.

About 40 people showed up for the forum, which was moderated by Marlene Drescher, director of the office of student advocacy.

Several students expressed concern over a proposal being considered by the Student Health Insurance Committee that would mandate students have health insurance before being admitted to the University.

Brand said he didn't know enough about the issue to fully comment until the committee makes a recommendation to the University.

"We have asked the questions of where the additional two to three hundred dollars a year would come from," Brand said. "I'm not sure our campus and our students can afford this."

Brand said the main issue wasn't whether health insurance would be mandatory, but whether students had the ability to pay for insurance.

Dan Stotter, of the Citizens for Responsible Land Use and a University law student, asked Brand to conduct an investigation into the possible withholding of information concerning chemical dumping in the Riverfront Research Park area.

The University recently announced a Portland engineering firm had been hired to conduct

a site analysis to determine if any dumping done during the 60s and early 70s had affected the area.

"It appears that there is a serious problem out there," Stotter said. "I would ask that anyone who had known (of the dumping) and did not disclose it be sanctioned."

Stotter criticized University Vice President Dan Williams for not disclosing knowledge of past chemical dumping when the information came to him about three years ago.

To further his argument, Stotter produced a document summarizing interviews Williams held with University employees who either participated in or witnessed incidents of chemical dumping.

"Your second question, whether we know we have a serious problem, we don't know — that's why we hired a consultant to look into it," Brand said.

Williams, who was in attendance, said the information didn't warrant disclosure until plans for the Riverfront Research Park were finalized.

"It was not necessary to disclose that information until it was certain we would disturb the site," Williams said.

The issue of homophobia on campus was raised by Laurel Sharp, co-director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, when she asked Brand to help speed up the time line for the recently formed homophobia task force.

The forum became heated when the discussion moved to CIA recruitment on campus and the agency's practice of discriminating against gays and lesbians.

EMU Board decides to keep food service

Carl's Jr. denied, no bids proposed

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

After rejecting a bid proposal from Carl's Jr. to establish a restaurant in the Skylight last January, it was not surprising that the EMU Board did not receive any bids at their meeting Wednesday evening.

The board had planned to discuss the expected bids at their last meeting held on Nov. 15. Because there were no bids offered at the time the board decided to wait.

Still not receiving any bids, the board decided to keep the food service in the Skylight as it is.

Chairwoman Mary Koroloff said she anticipates that the issue of bringing in a fast food restaurant or other food consortium will be discussed again in a few years.

A committee, including four board members and one faculty member, was appointed to discuss possible suggestions to improve the food service in the Skylight. Dennis Carr, food service manager, welcomed the idea of a food service committee and encouraged other students to offer alternatives.

The board also received information concerning a new student group on campus, Students for Choice.

Kathy Haven, a representative from Students for Choice, announced to the board that the group is looking for office space within the EMU.

The group is looking at Suite 1 as a possible solution. However, it was decided last year that ten groups would be the maximum for that space.

Haven has petitioned the existing groups to extend their of-

fice to Students for Choice, and is waiting for their responses.

Board members agreed that Students for Choice, a group that focuses on pro-choice issues, sexuality, and abortion rights, should be given space in the EMU.

However, Koroloff worried about the responses of other groups, such as the ASUO Legal Services, who have petitioned for more office space but have not received any.

The board decided that if Haven submits a petition with the signatures of approval from all Suite 1 groups, the House Committee would then decide how or if it will be approved.

Other business included the election of the Vice-chair, Justin McKenna, House Committee Chair, Ericka Foster, and confirmation of the new Budget Chair, Mark Wieger.

The board also approved an amendment to the Child Care and Development Centers Governance Document.

EMU Cultural Forum in association with Parr Tower

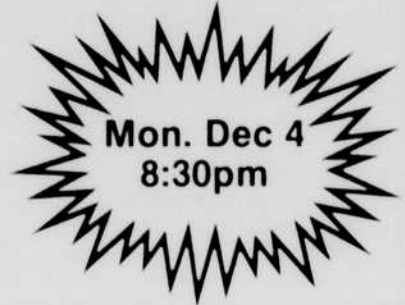
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