

# Oregon Daily Emerald

Thursday, January 11, 1990

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 91, Number 75

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## Umbrella blues

Two University students ward off the cold winter rain that saturated Eugene Wednesday. Umbrellas have been a handy tool for the past three days as heavy storms have hit the Northwest.

Photo by Steve Card

## Planning Committee advocates task forces

By Chris Bouneff  
Emerald Associate Editor

Eight campus-wide task forces will be formed as part of a recommendation from a committee appointed by University President Myles Brand to develop a strategic planning process for the University.

The Planning Process Committee was formed in the fall as part of the University's effort to develop a long-range plan for the University and individual departments.

The committee, charged with the duty of planning a structure where long-range priorities could be developed, made its recommendations to faculty during the monthly University Assembly meeting Wednesday afternoon.

The committee recommended forming eight task forces to address issues such as the affects of Oregon's economy on higher education, affirmative action, and graduate and undergraduate education.

"We need a process we're not only comfortable with but will lead us to success in the future," Brand said. "The committee talked about a process that is appropriate for planning at this University."

Brand said he was pleased with the committee's preliminary recommendations, which included the suggestion that individual departments also undertake their planning processes at the same time the task forces are meeting.

A finalized recommendation of the planning process is expected to be drafted within the next few weeks, Brand

said.

Vice Provost Gerald Kissler, who served as committee liaison, said the eight task forces represent the recurring themes that arose during discussions with faculty and department heads.

"Our job wasn't to come up with a plan," Kissler said. "Our job was to figure out what is the best way to do (planning) at this University."

The committee also distributed a guide addressing these eight areas so departments can keep these issues in mind during their planning processes.

The areas of concern do not affect every department directly, but it is important for each department to determine how changes in any of these areas would alter the goals of individual departments, Kissler said.

A complete version of the University's long-range goals will be presented to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education next winter, although Kissler said the timeline for completion is flexible.

"I suspect that as we begin to get departmental answers ... that it will change the way we think about developing an institutional response to that issue," Kissler said about how the task forces and departments would be working together.

The recommended task forces are: faculty recruitment and retention, research and graduate education, undergraduate education, the global context and international studies, affirmative action, technology and campus infrastructure, the cultural and professional needs of Oregon, and Oregon's economy.

## AIDS groups face crisis Money trouble may lead to merger

By Hon Walker  
Emerald Associate Editor

The Willamette AIDS Council may be able to alleviate what its former director called a "financial crisis" by merging with Shanti in Oregon, said Rob Rockstroh, director of Lane County Health and Human Services.

Earlier this week Rockstroh sent letters to WAC and Shanti suggesting that the AIDS assistance groups combine clerical staff and office space.

"Given the size of our community it makes sense to try to consolidate them," he said. The two groups could operate more efficiently under one roof, as both already are tightly funded, he said.

"We don't want them to go belly up, because we need them in the community," Rockstroh said.

Both programs have operated separately since 1985. WAC offers education, outreach and referral services, and Shanti focuses on emotional and non-medical support. Both are funded in part through contracts with the county health department, Rockstroh said.

Last week, WAC announced that its operational goals exceeded its available funding. One of the cutbacks was laying off its director, Sally Sheklow.

"The problem is not that they're not doing enough; the problem is that they're doing too much without the money to do it," Rockstroh said.

Sheklow said she had been planning to vacate her staff position, but the announcement of her layoff came three months earlier than she had expected.

"It was a panic move, but I don't know what a better move would have been," she said. "It's clearly a state of crisis."

Through its contract with the county health department, WAC is allocated \$21,000 a year for AIDS prevention outreach to gay and bisexual men and \$57,000 per year for outreach to youth, Sheklow said.

Grants and smaller contributions constitute the rest of the group's income. Last year's operating budget, however, was \$131,000 more than WAC took in, she said.

"I think it's reflective that the need for service is greater than the money that's coming from the county contract," she said. "We kept doing more



Jim Clay, acting director of the Willamette AIDS Council, said the agency will continue its education programs while a long-term solution to its financial troubles is sought.

than we could afford because the need was there."

Much of a day's work at WAC consisted of answering telephones and balancing numbers, leaving little time for long-range planning such as applying for grants, she said. "The board kept thinking I should do it, and I kept think-

ing the board should do it."

"The board consists of people who care about AIDS and want to stop it. They rate high on intention but low on expertise on running a non-profit organization," she said.

Sheklow appealed for donations and help from the University community.

"If you've been thinking about writing a check, joining the board, loaning expertise or volunteering to answer the phone, this would be a good time to pitch in," she said.

WAC's acting director, Jim Clay, said despite financial and

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