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Guidelines receive support

More fair to students

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

The Office of Student Advocacy and the ASUO say they support the University's effort to implement a new set of guidelines governing student grievances.

The comments came during a public hearing Friday afternoon in which the only negative remarks made were over specific wording in the five proposed rules.

Marlene Drescher, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, suggested the rules be modified to allow an oral hearing if the parties involved in a grievance desire one.

A hearing would be a more effective way of obtaining information than just limiting the grievance procedure to written testimony, which the proposed rules currently do, Drescher said.

Drescher also expressed concern over a provision in the rules that would force students to choose between filing a grievance under the proposed guidelines and filing an affirmative action complaint.

"Under these rules students are precluded from using the resources of the Office of Affirmative Action," Drescher said.

"A student would have a choice of forum, but once they choose a forum they are precluded from using the Office of Affirmative Action, which was set up for this type of complaint," she said.

The affirmative action office should be able to make the final decision if the grievance procedure does not produce desirable results for a student, Drescher said.

The new rules spell out the procedure for both undergraduate and graduate grievances, and also describe the differences between petition and grievance processes.

Moreover, the proposed rules codify the student financial aid appeal process and cover infor-

mal and formal procedures and mediation services.

Drescher also recommended that financial aid appeals be made directly to the Financial Aid Appeals Board instead of going through the financial aid office, which would help avoid the appearance of impropriety.

In addition, students should not have to prove they were victims of retaliation once they file a grievance against a faculty member or an administrator, Drescher said.

"The burden of proving that retaliation did not occur should be shifted to the grievor," Drescher said.

The faculty member or administrator should prove that an act that adversely affects the student filing the grievance was not done in retaliation, she said.

Kirk Bailey, ASUO University affairs coordinator, said the ASUO supported Drescher's recommendations, and also took issue with law professor Peter Swan's contention that student representatives to standing committees were unreliable.

Swan, who was chairman of the ad hoc committee that drafted the rules, said ASUO executive administrations are usually slow in appointing student representatives to committees.

His comments came in answer to Drescher's request that a student committee member be present when the FAAB decides a student's appeal.

Not requiring a student committee member to be present when the board makes such decisions would decrease student empowerment, Bailey said.

University administrators have two weeks to review the testimony and make any changes before filing the proposed guidelines with the Secretary of State's office.

Once filed, they guidelines become Oregon Administrative Rules and carry the weight of Oregon law.



Gimme five

Art student Marc Perry puts a giant hand weather vane through a test run along the side of Friendly Hall Monday afternoon. The hand, created by visiting art professor Anita Margrill, will eventually indicate the direction of the wind atop a flagpole in Emeryville, Calif.

Photo by Steve Card

Students tend to deny risk of AIDS

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Associate Editor

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a two-part series on HIV-positive students. Part One appeared Monday.

Discrimination is an unmistakable side effect of being infected with human immunodeficiency virus. When people test positive for the virus that can lead to AIDS, they often face losing their jobs, their homes, their families and their friends.

But that discrimination is really a product of misinformation about the disease, said Tadd Tobias, the outreach director for Willamette AIDS Council.

"People discriminate on the basis of not knowing, and they have fears for reasons that are based on misinformation or no information at all," he said. "And education is the only way to eliminate that discrimination."

Students need to understand that HIV is not the same thing as full-blown AIDS, said Will White, EMU Art Gallery co-director and AIDS Information Month co-coordinator.

"Being HIV positive at this point doesn't mean a lot," he

said. "You could be HIV positive your entire life and never know it."

"You could also be HIV positive and six months to a year afterward you could be AIDS symptomatic," White added. "There's still a lot of questions when it comes down to what HIV is and means."

And people infected with HIV also resent always being treated as an invalid by people who know their medical status, said Emily Heilbrun, the interim client services coordinator for Shanti in Oregon, a local AIDS support and counseling service.

"They miss just relating to people the way they used to before without being seen as a person with AIDS," Heilbrun said. "Every time they see someone who knows, they're being asked 'how are you, what's happening with your doctor' and all these questions."

"Although they appreciate the concern usually, people can get very isolated from other people that way and it becomes a form of unintended discrimination," she added.

Denying the epidemic

However, homophobia has become the largest obstacle to understanding HIV and AIDS

because society has presented AIDS as a gay male disease, said Meridith Myllenbeck, Gay and Lesbian Alliance volunteer.

"At this point homophobia and AIDS-phobia almost go hand in hand because there's a coming-out process for both and society has tried to ignore both," said Myllenbeck, who also is a trained speaker for the Willamette AIDS Council.

"Because we've never dealt with homophobia and we denied it, and we saw that group with the disease and we denied it, it's meant that we've denied this epidemic," she said. "And because we've ignored it, it became an epidemic."

"So, it happened that AIDS hit first in the gay community," White said. "The fact is anyone can get it, and everyone should be concerned. Like one of the pieces in the (art) show says, AIDS never discriminates."

But students tend to believe they are invincible and don't have to worry about getting infected with HIV, said Myllenbeck, who also speaks to University classes about AIDS.

"In some of the classes I've



Photo by Joe Kidd

Judy Moffett, AIDS Educational Task Force chairwoman, has suggested several AIDS educational programs including a sex-shopper cart to pass out literature.

Task force educates

By Joe Kidd
Emerald Reporter

A "sex-shopper cart" complete with safe sex apparatus and literature will frequent University events beginning this spring if the AIDS Educational Task Force has its way, said Judy Moffett, task force chairwoman.

The cart is one of several

strategies the task force has planned to fulfill its mission of "convincing students, staff and faculty that everyone is at risk of contracting AIDS, and that they should practice safe sex," according to the task force's written media plan.

The task force feels the sex-shopper cart is necessary even

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