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## University

# Hosticka helps plan PSU future

*University courses to serve Portland*

By Stephanie Mencimer  
Emerald Contributor

Carl Hosticka is a busy man. In addition to serving in the state Legislature, Hosticka is a University instructor in Planning, Public Policy and Management, and last October, he accepted the position of associate vice president in charge of coordinating University educational services in Portland.

Hosticka said his new position was created on the assumption that the state cannot afford three major research universities. Hosticka said his job as vice president is to sort out available resources and define the role of the University in Portland.

Various solutions have been offered for the problems in higher education, including a Portland high-tech industry plan to dismantle Portland State University in favor of developing a technical institute.

Hosticka said dismantling PSU probably won't happen, and that merging the University with PSU is not the answer either. PSU and the University are both underfunded, and put-

ting two underfunded institutions together will only create one big underfunded university, he said.

The University will be developing graduate programs in Portland in areas that are strong on the Eugene campus, such as architecture, urban design and journalism.

Hosticka said the faculty and students at PSU are willing to work with the University to develop programs to serve the Portland area. However, he said some administrators are not as eager.

Hosticka said his goal is to do what makes the most sense for the people in Portland rather than promoting one institution at the expense of another. However, Hosticka said "I'm employed by the U of O so obviously I don't want to do anything that is bad for the UO either."

Although his work in the state Legislature is education-related, Hosticka said his new University position is not always complimentary to his work in Salem.

"The legislature is not the best place to make academic



Carl Hosticka

policy," Hosticka said.

For the next session of the legislature, Hosticka is developing advisory questions for the May ballot to shift funding for primary and secondary education away from property taxes.

"When most people think that through, they come to the conclusion that probably one of the leading ways to (fund education) is through the sales tax," Hosticka said.

Hosticka said his two jobs begin to overlap on the issue of taxes, because if the state puts more money into primary and secondary education without raising taxes, money would have to be diverted away from higher education.

Then, Hosticka said, his main goal as chair of the House Revenue and School Finance Committee is to insure that all levels of education are adequately funded without helping one at the expense of another.

Hosticka said working for the University as an administrator has its advantages for his work in the legislature.

"The economic health and cultural life of Eugene are closely tied to the University... Ensuring that the University is in good shape helps my constituents," Hosticka said.

Teaching also works into the bigger picture. "I get some good ideas from students about what we might want to be doing in the public policy arena," he said.

Although he has no plans to run for a congressional seat, Hosticka said he might someday consider running for a city office.

"I think DeFazio is going to be congressman for life," Hosticka said. "Pete's doing a good job. I wouldn't want to run against him."

"In politics you can't really plan your future. You just have to do well at what you're doing and hope that if another opportunity comes along you're in a position to take advantage of it," Hosticka said.

Hosticka has a long history of public service. He spent five years in the Peace Corps — two years as a volunteer in Nepal and three years in India as a staff person. His experiences in the Peace Corps influenced his decision to pursue a career in public service, either as an elected official or working for an elected official.

Hosticka specializes in applied research in planning and public policy for civic and community organizations. He received his doctoral degree in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976.

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