

University professor challenges for legislative position

Cole goes for Republican nomination

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

Charles Cole, associate director of the University's International Business Program, said after he wins the primary election in May, he will not be running against David Dix (D-Eugene) for the District 41 legislative seat.

"I am not running against David Dix. I am running for a seat in the state Legislature," said Cole, who will run for the Republican Party nomination.

"It is not up to my opponent and myself to decide who should be there," he said. "It is up to us to tell the public what the qualifications are and then let the voters make the deci-

sion. And that's what I intend to do."

In addition to teaching business management for 10 years at the University, in 1986 Cole became the director of the business school's new international business program. In 1985, he was the director of the school's computer facilities.

When the Chiles Business Center was under construction, the University made Cole project manager of the building. The second floor is named the Charles W. Cole Floor, in appreciation for dedicated service to the College of Business Administration.

"I believe that the many years of experience in making decisions under stress, in being able to look at the factors bearing on a problem, in being able to plan ahead will serve me in good stead," Cole said.

Cole was a commissioned officer in the Navy for 30 years and received the Silver Star for his service in the Korean War. He taught navigation, oceanography and meteorology at the U.S. Naval Academy.

He spent about four years off the coast of Vietnam and also worked on trade issues in Japan's U.S. Embassy.

"I have more experience (than Dix) in managing large organizations," Cole said. "I have more experience in the decision-making process."

Cole, who was born in Springfield, said living in Oregon and being a part of the University has made him aware of the needs of the school and of the state.

"I am of the firm conviction that we must have a strong education system in our state in order for us to prosper economically," he said.

While living in Oregon, Cole has spent much time working on community projects.

Cole is a past member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Advisory Committee and of the Metropolitan Area Industrial Study Task Force.

He was Lane Council of Government's Outstanding Citizen for 1982 and is a past member of the executive committee for the Willamette Valley World Trade Center.

"I've participated in the community all my life," he



Photo by Steve Card

Business professor Charles Cole will retire in June to run for the state Legislature.

said. Cole has served on the board of directors for the Rubicon Society of Lane County, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, and for the Elks and Rotary clubs.

He will retire from the University in June to devote more time to his political and community goals.

"No, I'm not leaving the University because I'm sick of it. I'd just as soon stay here until I'm a hundred years old," Cole said.

"I like what I'm doing and I like the relationships with the students. It makes me feel good, too, that they really don't want me to go," he said. "I believe that I have some talent and some experience to offer and I would like to do that in the realm of public service."

Cole said some of the issues to be dealt with are maintaining the present quality of higher education, funding schools and dealing with the property tax relationship to that.

"I really have no preconceived conclusions about some of the solutions to these problems," he said. "I do not think that is the approach that I should be taking at this time."

In addition, Cole said he is concerned about workers' compensation. "I would hope that's going to be solved before I get to the Legislature."

Environmental concerns, such as waste management and air pollution, and the rising cost of health care for the elderly are other concerns Cole said he would like to see solved.

"I think we probably have not fully recognized the fact that we're an aging population and we need to be concerned about that," he said.

Cole said he believes the abortion issue will be faced by every state legislature in the nation this year.

"I don't believe that someone else should be making those decisions for the woman," he said. "Particularly the government."

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