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Forum answers ballot questions

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Contributor

The ASUO held an informational forum Wednesday night to address student questions about getting a measure on the ballot for the upcoming April elections.

ASUO Vice President Scott Wyckoff, Constitutional Court chairperson Carolyn Ladd, Elections coordinator Ken Dodge and four Elections Board members reviewed the ballot measure process and discussed new changes in procedures.

Wyckoff announced that the ASUO Executive had decided earlier in the evening to eliminate one of the two ways in which a measure can be placed on the ballot. In previous elections, a signature from the ASUO president alone was enough to get a measure on the ballot, but Wyckoff said the ASUO Executive discontinued this procedure because they felt it was discriminatory.

Wyckoff said allowing the

president to approve or disapprove the inclusion of certain measures on a ballot was not entirely fair and the students alone should decide which measures will appear on a ballot.

The only way a measure can be put on a ballot now is to first have the Constitutional Court approve its wording and then obtain the signatures of at least 5 percent of the student body (approximately 900 students).

Any student with a proposed measure must submit it to the Constitutional Court to have the legality checked and to "clarify the language," Ladd said. "We don't want to change the substance of it, but we have to be sure that the language is objective and non-persuasive."

If the wording of a measure is not approved, the Constitutional Court members will work with the student(s) to revise it until it is acceptable. If it is approved, a student can begin to collect signatures.

The Constitutional Court will meet March 8 to review ballot measure proposals that have been submitted, but Ladd said they will try to meet earlier in the week to give students as much time as possible to collect signatures.

If a measure is to be included on the ballot this spring, the required number of signatures must be obtained by March 30.

This deadline was established so all ballot measures can be included in the voter's guide, which will be published April 9th.

"Too many ballot measures were not included in the voter's guide last year and that's really the only place" for most students to learn about them before the elections, Dodge said.

The Elections Board meets today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Board Room to decide whether to revise any election rules. Students are welcome to attend.

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Candidates criticize spending

By Dan Eisler
Emerald Reporter

Education needs to be the top priority in the 1991 state legislature, state representative candidates Marie Bell and Charles Cole told the College Republicans at their meeting Wednesday night.

Bell and Cole, both from Eugene and running in the March Republican primary for state representative District 41, criticized the Legislature for breaking the voter-approved state spending limit, ostensibly to increase higher education faculty salaries.

"I'm offended the legislative session left education until the end," said Cole, University International Business Program associate director.

"It's possible to increase faculty salaries without breaking the spending limit," said Bell, former Lane County Republicans chair, adding that she believed education should be the top spending priority in the state budget.

"I don't know how we're going to fund higher education, but we can't put any more on the backs of students, just as we can't put public education on the backs of the property owners; we're at the limits," Cole said.

"There's no question in my mind educa-

tion is essential to our prosperity in the state."

However, the methodology of solving problems has trickled down from the national level to this state, he added.

"If you have a problem, just throw money at it. I'm concerned we focus in so much on salaries we lose sight of other problems in higher education, Cole said.

Bell also criticized incumbent Eugene state Rep. David Dix's worker's compensation proposal.

"David Dix's idea is to have workers get a one-week class on safety," she said. "He didn't answer how the course would be designed and how this would be paid for."

Currently, a worker with a perfect safety record has the same rate as one who's accident-prone, Bell said. "We need incentives to change people's behavior more than sending them to a class."

In addition, both candidates criticized Oregon's anti-business policies.

Referring to the recent decision by Rohr Industries not to locate a plant in Eugene, Bell said the decision was prompted by more than the nuclear-free zone ballot measure.

"The conflicting attitude has been, 'We want development, but we don't want growth,'" Bell said.

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