

Campus committees give students a voice

By Brian Hoop

One of the most important ways students can participate in the governance of the University is by serving on student/faculty committees. If you consider students as consumers of education it makes sense we should have the right to input how the system functions.

Commentary

This perspective is often difficult to keep in mind because it differs radically from the perspective of some faculty, staff, and administrators at the institution. Students need to see themselves as equal and necessary voices in the University community. If you feel your opinion is being patronized by the administration or your own student government then speak out through these committees.

In 1967 students were still fighting for the right to be present when campus committees were meeting. Since then the Oregon public meetings law has forced such meetings to be open. Due to additional efforts by students, faculty and administrators on this campus, students now have a formal role as appointed members of campus committees.

Despite the fact that students are recognized as peers to faculty on these committees, many students, nonetheless, feel intimidated due to the fact that students are often outnumbered by faculty, and some faculty members and staff fail to give credit to the valuable role students play in the process.

In some cases students have charged that their respective committees have no effective power to implement the decisions they make. Some committees have been relegated to little more than advisory status to the University administration. In some cases, such as the Minority Education Council, the administration has taken away authority from the committee and institutionalized those responsibilities under their own control.

Some faculty and administrators are frustrated that students have not participated enough in the committees and then resent it when students complain they are not being represented. Students are more likely to participate if the committee has policy and budget setting authority over how their decisions are going to be made, such as the Student Health Center Committee. As it is, more and more committees seem to only fill an advisory role.

Students need to take responsibility and authority to represent students seriously if we are to maintain or possibly strengthen the power students currently hold on these committees. The ASUO will be very receptive to strengthening the authority of these committees.

The 25 committees that positions are open for include: Academic Standards, Academic Requirements, Advising, Cam-

pus Planning, Curriculum, Equal Employment Opportunity, Ethnic Studies, Faculty Personal, Foreign Study Programs, Graduate Council, Intercollegiate Athletics, Library, Minority Education Council, Museum of Art Advisory, ROTC Advisory, Safety Advisory, Scholarships, Scholastic Review, Status of Women, Student Conduct, Student-Faculty Committee on Grievances, Student Financial Aid Advisory, Student Health Service Committee, Teacher Education, Traffic Appeals Board, and University Appeals Board.

Applications are available in the ASUO office in the EMU. Deadline is Friday, Oct. 5. A committee of student government representatives select recommendations who are then appointed by the ASUO president and approved by the University president.

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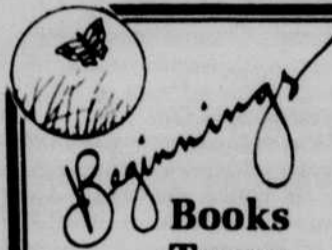
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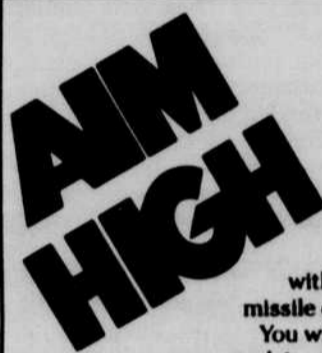
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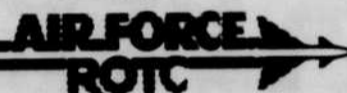
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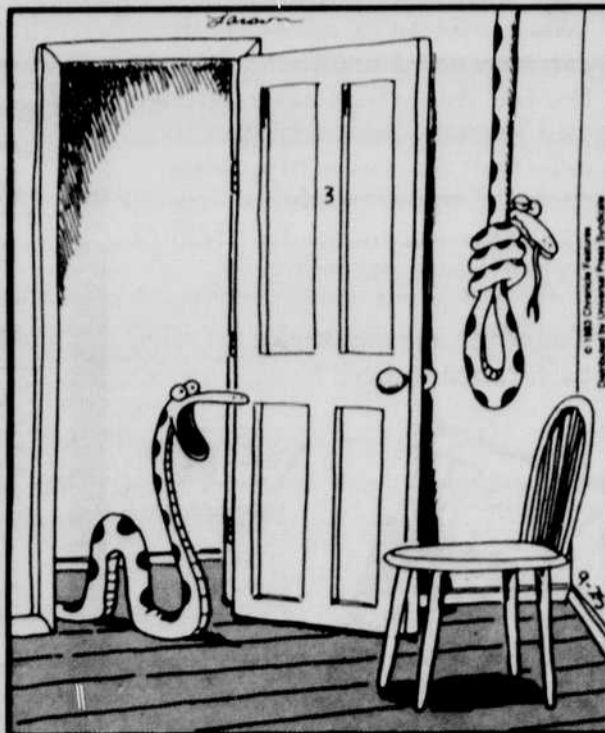
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