

Students urged to fight for increased funding

Rally protests inadequacy

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Reporter

Members of the ASUO Executive urged students at a rally Wednesday to make their voices heard to the state government and demand increased higher education funding.

"We're not receiving the kind of education we should be for the amount of money we're paying," said ASUO Co-president Kirk Bailey.

Classroom overcrowding, an antiquated registration system and increased tuition are just a few of the examples of the problems students face because of a lack of funding, Bailey said.

"Turn that anger into action," by lobbying the state legislators, he said.

Bailey added that University tuition has increased 20 percent in the past two years for in-state students and more than that for out-of-state students.

"We shouldn't be shouldering all the financial burden," he said.

ASUO University Affairs Coordinator Brian Hoop said the reputation of the University as a liberal arts institution is being compromised by the elimination of

such programs as American Studies.

Rather than expanding the University's curriculum to include greater access to courses in ethnic studies, peace studies and other such disciplines, students are seeing them eliminated, lessened or, at best, kept as they are, Hoop said.

"Maintaining the status quo is not enough," he said. "We need to go beyond that and show the Legislature that whole areas of study are being ignored."

State Rep. David Dix (D-Eugene) also spoke briefly and encouraged students to actively lobby in some way.

"Tuition increases are wrong," he said. "Tell your legislature that you need funds for higher education. They don't think you vote or care."

"But you're the future of this state," he added. "You're going to decide whether students coming up will be priced out of an education."

Traci Manning, ASUO state affairs coordinator said "We're tired of hearing in the media that our generation is apathetic. The Legislature won't listen to you unless you vote, but only 22 percent of people aged 18 to 24 vote."



Photo by Eric Evans

Business major Tad Rockwell collects petition signatures at a voter registration table during Wednesday's rally.

The Oregon Student Lobby, made up of several student representatives from state colleges and universities who convey student concerns to the state Legislature, will issue an informational guide, Manning said.

It will be available at the ASUO office in Suite 4 of the EMU and at various places around campus beginning Oct. 15. The guide will include information about issues of concern to students, Manning said.

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IFC elects new officers

The Incidental Fee Committee elected Michael Colson as its chairman for the 1990-91 school year at its meeting Wednesday. Members also voted Jennifer Bills in as the committee's vice president. Colson was elected to a two-year IFC seat and Bills to a one-year seat in elections last April.

In other business, the committee allocated \$400 to the Oregon Student Lobby for a Student Leadership Conference in Salem Oct. 12-14. IFC members also granted \$30 requested by the Latin American Support Committee.

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University speech teams competing against 35 other teams from Pacific Northwest schools took first and second place in a tournament at Western Washington State University last weekend.

Partners on the first-place team were Trond Jacobson, a political science major, and Jennifer Oetter, a rhetoric and communications major. The team of Ladd Wiles and Ted Prorise took second. Both teams were undefeated after six debates against other two-person teams.

Judges also voted Jacobson best overall speaker in the tournament.

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Students may earn one academic credit for attending a weekend workshop on Native

Americans and substance abuse scheduled for Oct. 19-20. The workshop, titled "Soar Like an Eagle," will feature presentations on peyote use, fetal alcohol syndrome, Native American culture and non-traditional substance abuse treatments.

Al Smith, a Native American Eugene-area resident, is the speaker for the peyote presentation Friday, Oct. 19. Smith fought a six-year legal battle in Oregon courts and in the U.S. Supreme Court after he was dismissed from his job as drug counselor for using peyote in a religious ceremony.

Students may add the course in the leisure studies department office, 180 Esslinger, until the day of the conference. Registration fee for students is \$49 if they sign up before Friday; after Friday, the cost is \$69. Students signing up for academic credit must also pay tuition.

The workshop is sponsored by the University's Substance Abuse Program, the Continuation Center and the Native American Student Union.

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The Homecoming Student Steering Committee is looking for students interested in helping organize Homecoming events, including a noise parade, a comedy night, a sign-decorating contest and a treasure hunt. The committee holds meetings every Tuesday at 4 p.m. Call Richard Horswell or Karmen Fore at 346-2107 for more information.

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