

UNIVERSITY

Brand says he won't ban military

Research, recruiting discussed at forum

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Associate Editor

University President Myles Brand said he would rather work to change U.S. military policy on gays and lesbians than ban recruiters from campus for violating affirmative action policy, he said Tuesday.

Brand fielded questions about the University's ties to the military and other issues at a Gilbert Hall open forum titled "Tell It to the President" sponsored by the ASUO and the Office of the President.

In response to a student's question, Brand said he had no plans to prohibit military organizations from recruiting on campus because of their discriminatory policies toward homosexuals.

"I'm not taking any steps to get (military organizations) off campus because they are allowed on campus," Brand said. "I am taking steps to see the military change its policy."

Pressure for change in the military will be most effective coming from congressional groups and University organizations, he said.

Brand also said the military should be allowed to remain on campus out of fairness to students who are interested in military careers.

"We don't want to deny access to students who want to interview with the military," he said.

In response to another question, Brand said he was unaware of any research being



Myles Brand

conducted at the University for any branch of the military.

"We do not accept any money for classified research," he said. "We don't do weapons research on campus."

Although he acknowledged some campus research could eventually benefit the military,

'We don't want to deny access to students who want to interview with the military.'

-Myles Brand

Brand said the only way to prevent such uses would be to halt all research at the University.

Other topics brought up at the forum included quality of classroom instruction at the University and curricula expansion.

Brand said he believes stu-

dents are getting a good education at the University, but he agreed that more emphasis should be placed on undergraduate teaching.

"We have to make sure we provide services for students with different needs and expectations," he said. "There is no question in my mind that the pendulum has swung away from teaching."

Brand said the problem stems from the nature of the graduate school and from an emphasis on professions rather than on learning.

"The reward is from national peers and not local peers," he said. "We need to build an ethos in graduate departments that (people) need to be able to teach."

One student said the University should begin to look at students as consumers in order to make professors realize they work for the students and not for the sole purpose of researching and publishing, but Brand disagreed with this approach.

"It is not a purchase commodity that you get a degree," Brand said. "Students are participants in the process of exchange of ideas."

During the forum, Brand also fielded questions about the lack of courses on Asian-American and Middle Eastern cultures, especially in light of the Persian Gulf War.

About the Middle Eastern classes, Brand said he realizes that there is a real need for them but that the University just does not have the resources to start a Middle Eastern program.

He said he would look into the lack of Asian-American courses.

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