

## BAILOUT

Continued from Page 1

The proposal comes at a time when many University academic programs and jobs have been reduced or eliminated in the wake of Measure 5.

"The timing is bad, but we have no alternative," said Weldon Ihrig, vice chancellor for finance and administration of the board.

Ihrig gave the opening remarks at Thursday's hearing, which was the second of three public hearings on the issue. The first took place two Fridays ago at OSU, and the third will take place at PSU on Oct. 22, at 7 p.m.

The plan is expected to be adopted at a Nov. 15 board meeting on the University campus, the board's headquarters.

Bills said she and other student leaders would attend the PSU meeting and speak out against the proposal.

If approved, the proposal would:

- Authorize the use of institutional funds for scholarships at a level tied to the number of degrees awarded to student athletes.
- Permit the use of institutional funds for coaches' salaries, as well as facilities for non-revenue generating sports.
- Provide \$1.5 million each to the University and OSU, and \$350,000 to PSU from the state system's general fund.
- Require that an amount equal to half of the Sports Action Lottery receipts be set aside to retire the accumulated deficit. The remaining funds will be used to reduce institutional support required to retain the non-revenue generating sports.

Last June, the board voted to subsidize athletics for one year as a temporary measure to reduce deficits. Although no new deficits developed, the previous debt remains, so the board wants to implement the proposal permanently.

Although the board members said the hearings are being held to solicit public response and

to seek alternative ideas, critics say the board has already decided in favor of the proposal.

But Thomas Bartlett, chancellor of higher education, recently said the state has no choice but to support athletics.

If the programs were cut, deficits resulting from the loss of income from football and men's basketball would far outweigh any savings, Ihrig said, adding existing sports programs cannot be cut further without dropping out of the Pacific-10 Conference.

Ihrig said yearly deficits will greatly increase if the schools are forced to maintain or mothball athletic facilities without television and radio broadcast revenues, ticket money and other income from Pac-10 football and men's basketball games.

Dropping out of the Pac-10 would bring about financial disaster, an unacceptable loss of prestige and the end of valuable academic collaboration between colleges in the conference, Ihrig said.

He and others who spoke at the hearing said the University would also lose a significant amount of alumni gift money for academic programs if it discontinued its Pac-10 affiliation.

About half of the people who spoke at the hearing in favor of the bailout were Eugene-area businessmen. They wanted the board to know that University athletics is extremely important to the economic vitality of the area.

That angered Clarence Spigner, assistant professor in the Department of School and Community Health, whose program will soon be dropped because of Measure 5.

"They see athletics in terms of enterprise," Spigner said, adding local business people are concerned with retail sales, tourism and community boosterism, not academic excellence.

With the board's proposal, the real losers are the athletes — especially black athletes — in the revenue generating sports, Spigner said.

"We do a sorry job of ad-

ressing the needs of these students," he said.

Most blacks in the revenue generating sports pin their hopes on making the pros while neglecting their studies — and the institution doesn't care, Spigner said.

Spigner said he and ASUO leaders tried to obtain records of graduation rates of black athletes in the revenue generating sports, but their efforts were blocked by the administration.

Dan Williams, vice president for administration, who oversees the athletic department, rejects what he calls conspiratorial theories about concealing records and the accusation of black athletes being used by the University.

"This is not a new issue," he said. "I don't believe that black athletes are being exploited."

In a statement prepared last month in response to the proposal, Williams said, "The funding plan that state board members are discussing would sustain Oregon's intercollegiate athletic program while avoiding future deficits."

"If state board members approve this or a similar funding plan for intercollegiate athletics," he said, "their action would provide the University of Oregon with money that would allow it to balance its athletics budget for the next few years without an internal reallocation of the University's already tightly stretched instructional resources."

Bobby Lee, affirmative action coordinator of the ASUO, testified against the proposal.

"This University has tried to ignore this issue because it's tremendously embarrassing," Lee said.

The University holds up black athletes in the revenue generating sports as examples of cultural diversity on campus, but if most of them can't compete academically and don't graduate, it makes a mockery of the claim, he said.

"(The University is) taking the easy way out," Lee said. "Money talks and education walks."

and we can look at a payment plan for them, so they can pay back within a reasonable time. ... In most of these cases, these are past mistakes."

Naber said the new system will save students money.

"It's not radical, it's just prac-

tical," she said. "It should have been that way all along. Actually, the rules existed before, but weren't enforced. It will be like a bank now. If there's no money here, you can't take money out or promise to repay it later."

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## MONEY

Continued from Page 1

with a surplus, the money goes into the IFC's reserve.

But this past year, there were more groups in deficit than in surplus, Naber said.

Bills, a former IFC member, noted that groups have not been held to account by the IFC for overspending, but have rather been "rewarded" by receiving bigger budgets for the following year.

"We're changing the entire way we look at the budgeting process here at the University of Oregon," Bills said.

Bills said the new system should prevent any group from going into deficit, but some are still in the red from last year.

"We're going to tell people about it, give them ample opportunity to come to the ASUO,

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