

Research, teaching have similar goals

Three state representatives visited the University Wednesday to discuss the role of research within the Oregon State System of Higher Education. Their main concern was whether faculty are spending too much time researching and not enough time teaching.

"Our mission is to see how we can get more bang for the buck," said Rep. Carolyn Oakley. She wants professors to revise their teaching priorities so they spend more time educating and less time researching.

Oakley is correct in assuming many people are frustrated by the quality of education at the University. There are too many impersonal lecture courses in which the student is intimidated by the size of the class and hesitant to ask questions or visit the professor during office hours. And smaller courses are often taught by graduate teaching fellows who seem uncomfortable with educating others because they have too little practical experience.

So, should professors spend more time on teaching and less on research? Frankly, the University needs to emphasize both areas because both are equally important and lead toward the same goal — learning.

There are two ways of looking at it. First, education is the priority of any collegiate institution. Students pay this University \$907 a term for quality instruction. That includes active professors who are prepared and enthusiastic about the subject matter. It means attending small classes taught by full professors, not GTFs. It means having professors who are available to students outside of class and who enjoy interacting with their pupils.

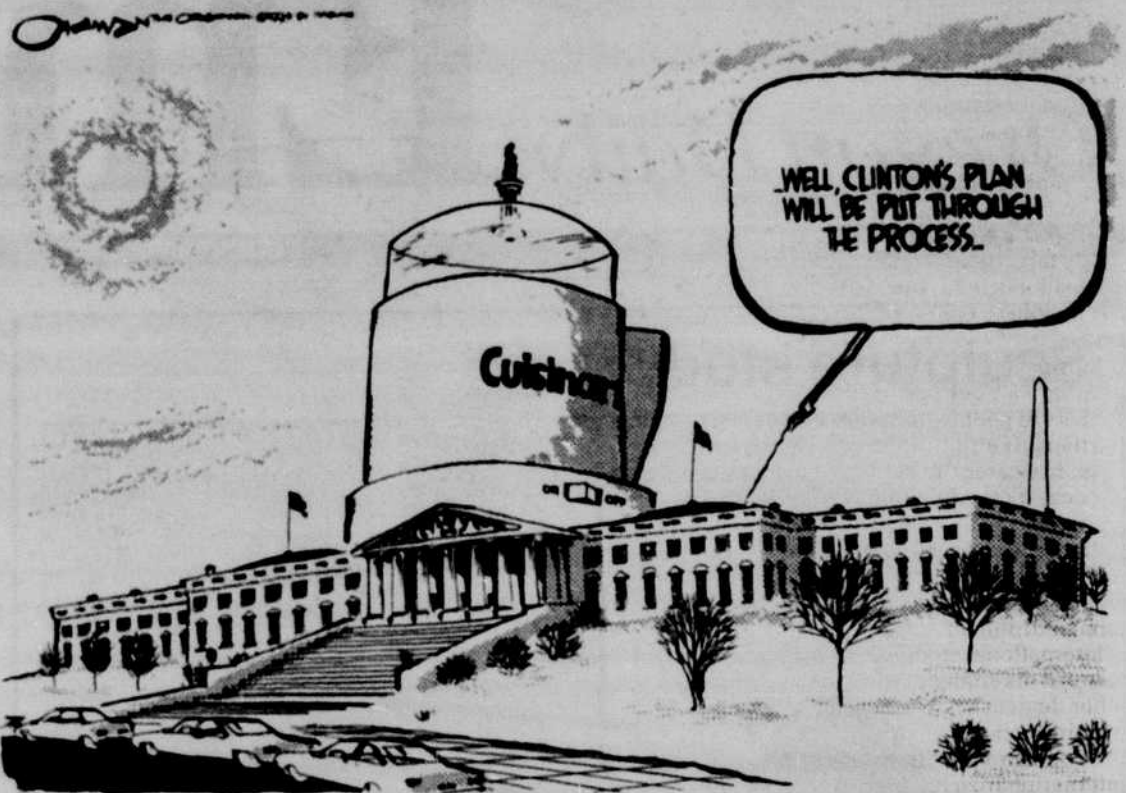
On the other hand, the key to advancing as a society is a continued commitment to expand existing knowledge. Research does this. It furthers a person's understanding of an issue, which in turn leads to new discoveries. A professor satisfied only with recycling past knowledge won't inspire the student's imagination. As University Professor Charles Wright said, "When faculty stop learning, it's only a matter of time until the students stop learning."

In addition, research increases the prestige of an institution, which in turn brings in more money through alumni donations. The professors also receive grants for their projects — although the money goes toward the research itself, not the University.

The question, then, is how does the University balance education and research? It's far easier to say teaching should be emphasized without coming up with solid solutions toward that goal.

Perhaps the only solution we can reach is to emphasize the connection between research and instruction in professors' minds. Research is designed to further learning. Instruction furthers other people's learning. When used together, they should improve course content, not detract from it.

In other words, it's not an either/or proposition. If professors focus their research toward students — instead of their own gains — they wouldn't have to change anything. Research and teaching should co-exist comfortably.



OPINION

Packwood could use ethics lesson



It was with relief that I read the *Oregonian* headline, "Jolin resigns her Senate seat."

We all know by now what the soon-to-be former state senator did that was so offensive. In order to increase campaign donations during a 1990 bid for re-election, Sen. Peg Jolin sent a letter to her supporters claiming dire financial straits.

According to the letter, Jolin's financial campaign was in debt to the tune of about \$10,000. Jolin blamed part of the debt on an accident involving a campaign truck that rolled over while it was being used to place campaign signs.

What the letter left out was that the campaign truck was registered to Jolin and that it was being driven at the time of the accident by her husband.

Donations poured in from sympathetic, concerned constituents. Then, unfortunately for Jolin, the Justice Department began investigating — after financial records from the campaign showed a surplus of \$28,000 at the time she mailed the infamous letter.

When she was called on the discrepancy, Jolin defended herself by explaining that many of her colleagues use this "technique" of soliciting money by claiming to be in debt.

Grow up, Peg. "Everyone's doin' it" is the oldest excuse in the world.

Fortunately, the public didn't buy it. Jolin, angry and resentful, was finally forced to resign. If she learned anything from this ordeal, it was probably to be more careful next time. Jolin has expressed no regret for her actions other than what seemed necessary to win back support.

The recent controversy over Zoe Baird is another example of ethics winning out over cheap politics. Baird, who was nominated by President Clinton for the position of U.S. Attorney

General, declined the nomination after the media discovered that she had knowingly hired two illegal immigrants.

The issue of ethics in politics is big right now. If you are caught lying to increase campaign donations, you have to pay the consequences. If you hire an illegal immigrant, you won't be allowed to serve as the U.S. Attorney General.

It's too bad these ethics haven't convinced Sen. Bob Packwood that he needs to resign.

Packwood may be a very good senator. He has the experience a good senator needs. He has the connections to get Oregonians what they need. He has done some wonderful things for Oregon in the past.

Unfortunately, none of that means anything when so many of your constituents hate you. Every time Packwood appears in public, he is inundated with questions about the 23 women who have accused him of unwanted sexual advances.

A new poll confirms that almost half of Oregon voters believe Packwood should resign, a percentage that has increased six points in the past two months.

Several women's organizations say they won't forget the sexual harassment allegations against Packwood, nor will they let anyone else forget.

"Sen. Packwood's record of advocacy on women's rights does not excuse his exploitive behavior," said Holly Pruett, a representative of the Women's Rights Coalition. "While he has used the power invested in him by the people of Oregon to achieve advances for women, he has also used that very same power to harass some women."

The fact that the news of these allegations was not published until after the November election is another sore point.

"Bob Packwood made credibility, clout and power his platform for re-election," said Mary Botkin, Oregon National Committee member and the chairwoman of the Women's Coalition of the Democratic National Committee. "He has violated that trust, and voters deserved to know that beforehand...If he had

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not lied about it, he would not be a senator today."

Despite whether Packwood is or is not a scumball, he is unable to effectively represent Oregon at this time. Although he is desperately trying to make the public forget his indiscretions, the people aren't playing. Packwood just isn't a Slick Willie. The public isn't as ready to forgive and forget his indiscretions.

Instead, we have vowed to remember. We intend to hold the Senate Ethics Committee, which is investigating the harassment charges, responsible for discovering the truth behind the allegations and handing out just punishment. In the meantime, many of us will continue to ask for Packwood's resignation.

Are we condemning Packwood before the trial? Guilty until proven innocent? That isn't the point. The point is politicians, because of their high visibility, are public figures who are held up to higher standards than private citizens. We expect more from politicians because they have pledged to represent us.

Maybe Packwood is innocent, but a lot of Oregonians believe he is guilty. Because of this, they are angry enough to fight every move he makes in his position as senator.

We made sure Jolin paid for her dishonesty. By pledging to remember the ordeal Packwood allegedly put these women through, and by demanding justice, we can make sure that Packwood also pays.

If Packwood really cares about Oregon, he will do the decent thing and resign. Oregon needs representatives who can concentrate on Oregon's interests. Packwood is too busy fending off these accusations to get much of anything else done.

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