

Brand says move would devastate school

By Demian McLean
and Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Writers

Late last month, two state legislators offered a novel solution to the University's budget problems — make the University a private school.

But what Reps. Carolyn Oakley, D-Albany, and Jim Whitty, D-Coos Bay, didn't address in their letter to the state Board of Higher Education were the problems privatization could raise.

First, there is the issue of tuition. Although privatization is only a suggestion at this point, Oakley said Friday that University tuition should remain comparable to private schools in Oregon, such as Linfield College. Tuition at

Linfield this year is \$11,690.

Such a tuition hike could price some students out of a University education. Peter Swan, legal adviser to University President Myles Brand's office, said privatization would have to accommodate residents used to paying about \$2,700 a year for a University education.

"No one wants to see the University become an elitist institution," he said.

Swan suggested the state might buy a number of seats at a privatized University, and offer them to residents at a subsidized price; out-of-state students would pay full tuition. To what degree in-state tuition might be subsidized, Swan said he didn't know.

If operationally and politically feasible, Swan said he would expect privatization within two to six years.

Also in question is how the University itself would change hands. George Pernsteiner, associate vice chancellor for administration, said University buildings represent a public investment of about \$433 million dollars.

Whether to sell the campus outright, or lease certain buildings out by year would be decided by the Oregon Legislature, Pernsteiner said.

At a special Oregon State Board of Higher Education meeting Friday to discuss future directions for higher education, University President Myles Brand said if the University is privatized, it

could be devastated by losses in both students and research money.

"The risks are so high that you should only do this if there is no other option," Brand told the board.

While the quality of education would likely be raised, Brand said, the higher costs would drive students away, and the University would recruit more out-of-state students.

If the University is privatized, Oakley said legislators would learn from other states that have made similar changes in higher education to make the transition smoother.

But Oakley said he had "no idea" of other public universities that have privatized.

STRESS

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Psychologist Evans said students like Kirk have the right idea when it comes to dealing with stress. "Get out of your head for a while," Evans said. "Take a walk. Go swimming. Go running. Chances are, when you come back, you'll have more energy or mental capacity."

Study breaks don't have to involve heavy exercise, either.

Freshman Rob Froom said he plays guitar or video games to get his mind off of his studies.

The key, Brau said, is to give the brain time to process and consolidate new information by taking frequent study breaks (about 10 minutes every hour).

"The principle of memory that operates when you are taking breaks, is the principle of avoiding interference," she said. "Interference can be anything from thinking about another problem to thinking about something you just learned."

Finally, after all of the studying is over and it's time to take the exam, Brau said students should pay attention to their breathing.

"People tend not to breathe as deeply (when they are stressed)," she said. "So just sitting tall and taking three deep breathes will very often counteract some of the most alarming effects of adrenalin."

HOUSING

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law does not recognize domestic partnerships, said Amazon Housing Director Frank Gaddini.

Eyster said one of the ways he will try to keep a family atmosphere in family housing is to require undergraduates who live there and don't have children to be at least 21 years old.

"The state has made 21 as a benchmark for maturity," Eyster said. "We're going to use that same bench-

'This state has made 21 a benchmark for maturity.'

Mike Eyster,
University housing director

mark."

Eyster said students who believe they should be eligible for family housing can petition for an exemption to the rules.

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We encourage all UO students to run for the EMU Board of Directors

Contact: Tracy Dennis, ASUO Elections Coordinator 346-3724

JOE GRUBE - TESTIMONIAL

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Joe Grube, EMU Board Chair

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