

UNIVERSITY

Provost candidate says universities must heed past

By Heatherle Himes
Oregon Daily Emerald

Universities must heed the past and their traditional goals when they prepare for the future, said provost candidate and historian Charles Middleton in a presentation to faculty members Thursday afternoon.

"We're about educating citizens who go out to exercise important leadership roles in all walks of life," Middleton, who has a doctorate in history, said.

Higher education has served that purpose since the Middle Ages, and acknowledging that tradition when planning for the future will add a crucial element of continuity, he said.

As they mold future leaders and good citizens, teachers serve as role models about how exciting learning is, Middleton said. This is one of the reasons that researching and teaching are inseparable, he said.

"We pass along received wisdom of the past and also create materials, ideas, artifacts and intellectual matrix that will be passed along to the future," Middleton said. "We create as we pass along."

Future leaders and their mentors must have a stake in their academic community and in shaping the future of the academy, Middleton said, and that is why he communicates with students through electronic mail, casual discussions on the street and office hours. Faculty are also encouraged to discuss issues with him through both formal and informal meetings.

"For us to be successful in higher education, we must make sure that everybody who has a stake in the output has a place at the table where the decisions are made," he said.

If he is selected to be the University's next provost, Middleton would guide students by selecting their tenured professors, allocating funds to departments and overseeing many aspects of academic policy.

Middleton earned his master's and doctoral degrees from Duke University. He joined the University of Colorado faculty in 1969 and taught history. He also served as the head of the graduate studies program and of the honors program in the late 1970s.

He held several deanships within the University of Colorado's College of Arts and Sciences before becoming

its dean in 1988. He has overseen curriculum changes, summer school and academic affairs, responsibilities that the University of Oregon provost holds.

Middleton currently serves on the University of Colorado President's Phase II Subcommittee on Faculty Futures and the President's AdHoc Committee on the Faculty Senate Constitution. These committees restructured general education requirements. Similar restructuring has been taking place here.

Middleton is last of the three provost candidates from out of town to visit the University, make presentations and interview with the selection panel.

John Moseley, the University's vice president for research since 1985, will make his presentation Friday at 1:30 p.m. in Room 128 of the Chiles Business Center.

The four final candidates were selected from more than 100 candidates by a 19-member committee made up of students, faculty, staff and Eugene residents.

Dave Frohnmayer, chair of the selection committee, said that a new provost will be appointed by the end of the academic year.

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Vasiliki Sazaklidou, a GTF in exercise and movement science. "But, I can't say the same for a personal letter."

Don Addison, a GTF in music, said he was very upset about union reaction to member concerns.

"I'm very disappointed about the way the union handled all of this," Addison said. "They've taken our money and aren't even concerned about it."

Addison also complained that though he has his own insurance, the union is still taking \$18 a month out of his salary for coverage he doesn't need.

"The union is ripping us off. I'm angry," Addison said.

Judy Soderstrom, vice president for the GTF executive board, said, "What we've done is reasonable. But people have a certain responsibility to look out for themselves."

The newsletter is the union's primary form of communication, and members have a responsibility to read it, Rau said.

But Li-Chen Chin, a GTF in music, said

the union's position is biased against international students who have a more difficult time understanding English and are less apt to read the newsletter.

"I was told that the newsletter is the usual way of communicating, and if you miss it, tough luck," Chin said.

Since late February, Chin began asking the union if they could extend the refund deadline.

That would invite an IRS audit, Rau said, because IRS rules dictate refunds outside the refund window could violate the fund's non-taxable status.

Rau's interpretation of tax law is wrong, Britt said. The IRS would not issue a penalty for extending the waiver period, he said.

According to two taxpayer representatives for the IRS, the rules cited by Rau don't discuss a waiver period.

The only provision written into the tax code for the union's plan, called a "cafeteria" plan, says that the employee must choose between the insurance or the money, with "choice" being the key word for cafeteria plans.

If the employee fails to make a choice,

'We can't jeopardize the non-taxable status of the plan just for 10 or so members that didn't read the newsletter.'

— Diane Rau,
*representative, Graduate Teaching
Fellow Federation*

the IRS said that though nothing is written in the code, past court cases set a precedent for the employee to receive the money and not the insurance.

The IRS representatives admitted that the tax code is difficult to interpret.

Britt said that when he asked Rau to cite the portion of the IRS code where the waiver rule appears, Rau could not.

The *Emerald* asked Rau to identify the relevant section of the code. "I'm not a tax expert," she said. Rau said the union had a summary of the code that would make the issue clearer, but Rau was unable to find it before publication.

A concern that won't be on the formal complaint is alleged harassment from the union toward Chin, who was the driving force behind the complaint and was one of the first to address the issue to the union.

"A lot of people are afraid to say anything against the union," Chin said. "But I think (the union) should explain why they didn't send us proper notice."

Chin called the health insurance provider, SelectCare, to find out if she was covered and she was not, she said. She said had to find out from friends about later notices sent on the insurance plan.

All GTFs who didn't turn in a waiver form were supposed to be automatically covered under the plan from the beginning of January. About Chin not being on the insurance program, Rau said the insurance is new and is bound to have bugs.

Britt quoted Rau as calling Chin "anti-union" during a recent meeting. Rau said all that she remembered telling Britt was that Chin allegedly said, "Some of us just don't care."



Saturday, May 14

• 10-11 a.m. Historical campus tour. Meet at the corner of 13th and University.

• 11-Noon University Forum. Ask UO administrators. EMU Fir Room.

• 3-4:30 p.m. Canoe Fête. Featuring floats, music & food. Millrace.

• 3 p.m. Knight Library tour.

• 7 p.m. Casino Party. Win lots of prizes including a futon from Rock Soft Futon. Learn to linedance.

Sunday, May 15

• 9:30-11 a.m. Parents' Brunch. EMU Fountain Court, \$6.00. Guest speaker Jim Berneau, President of Willamette Valley Vineyards.

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