

OSSHE

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Farms in The Dalles and an Oregon State University graduate, said changing the view citizens have of public higher education is crucial to the stability of OSSHE's institutions.

"We have an image problem," Bailey said. "People mistakenly think that public higher education is half closed-down."

The proposed Public Information Plan, which would spend at least \$400,000 on television commercials and radio ads if approved, would promote the success and stability of OSSHE's schools.

Board member Jim Willis, the Executive Officer for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Oregon and a graduate from University of California at Santa Cruz, said now is the time to make citizens aware of the contributions higher education makes to the individual, as well as the state.

"By increasing public awareness, people can find the value of public higher education in their own lives," Willis said.

Another key issue the board faces is keeping tuition increases down to a minimum. In the three bienniums since the 1990 passage of Ballot Measure 5, the property tax limiting initiative, tuition has increased by 66 percent for in-state students and 88 percent for non-residents.

Gov. John Kitzhaber's plan for higher education is to buy down the tuition increase from 9 percent, which is former Gov. Barbara Robert's suggestion, to 4 percent. Many of the board members expressed optimism about Kitzhaber's plan.

Bobby Lee, one of two student board members and a University graduate student, said Kitzhaber is the first governor to "articulate the fact that higher education does play a major role in the economic well-being of the state."

As a primary result of the significant rise in tuition, in-state enrollment has plummeted by 6.6 percent since Measure 5 passed.

He said if access is denied, the state will not have a big enough pool of educated workers to draw from. Thus, people from out-of-state will be increasingly hired to meet the future's demand of service-based

Bobby Lee redirects student board

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

As state board of higher education members increasingly spend time drumming up support for public institutions, one student board member wants to ensure that students aren't lost in the shuffle.

Bobby Lee, a University graduate student and Oregon State System of Higher Education board member, is proposing a Student Life Forum to the board that would address student issues of career planning, financial aid and access for disenfranchised groups.

Significant tuition increases since the passage of Ballot Measure 5, the 1990 property tax limiting measure, coupled with declining in-state enrollment, has forced board members to spend more time finding ways to gain public support for higher education.

Because of this, Lee said he is afraid the board, and thus the higher education system, is drifting further from the student.

"We are spending so much time trying to get a revenue streamline," Lee said, "that we're spending less time on the mission - on improving the quality of life for students."

Lee's plan is three-fold. First, along with help from the Oregon Student Lobby and various individuals, he would address career planning issues.

Lee said it's crucial that students have access to career planning early

on, which would point them in the right direction toward a future job or further schooling.

"Students are taking out high loans, working very hard in classes and once they get their degree, they may be disappointed because they may realize they need a continued education like a masters rather than beginning their career," Lee said.

By providing more support in career planning and placement, he said, this will allow students to see a clear path to their future goals.

Lee said he would like to see a mentor program started for freshmen, which would give students an early hands-on look at their fields of interest. This would prevent some students from changing their major in their senior year.

The second element to the plan is to put a more "suitable" financial aid package together. Lee said he will push for the continuation of the direct student loan program, which cuts out private banks.

The direct loan program, which President Clinton implemented, is only a pilot program, and Oregon is the first and only state to test it.

The third part of Lee's plan is to ensure equal opportunity to students of color, nontraditional students and to address gender issues.

The forum will be presented to the board at the February meeting, but isn't expected to be voted on next month.

jobs.

"Out-of-state experts will come here to fulfill the roles and Oregonians will become second-class citizens in their own state," Lee said.

How does the future of higher education look? Perhaps surprisingly, many board members seem positive.

"I'm pleased about the last five years in the face of some severe financial insta-

bility," Swanson said.

Others aren't so optimistic.

"We haven't made public higher education a priority like they have in Washington," Board President Swanson said.

Other board members include Herb Aschkenasy, Esther Puentes, George Richardson, Jr., Ronda Trotman Reese, and Janice Wilson.

TRAINS

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school at Eugene High. The school bought a new combination phonograph and recorder and put Hunter in charge of using it.

"I became interested in recording sounds that were disappearing," Hunter said.

He discovered that a number of sounds had already slipped away and couldn't be found.

In the 1950s Hunter was able to record the sound of the last Eugene single-cylinder gas engine used in wood cutting. His interest turned to trains when he realized that the steam engines were also disappearing, Hunter said.

"It had gotten to where there was practically nothing left running," Hunter said. "The only way you could hear a steam locomotive was through fan trips, and they aren't the same. It's not the old building the west feeling."

A sample of Hunter's work will be presented Jan. 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Hilton Conference Center. The cost is a \$5 donation.

Hunter's train obsession began on his honeymoon in 1939. He bought an HO electric steam engine. It sat around his house until after he had children.

Hunter's three boys got into the train game with him. Over the years they built stations and tracks. Hunter got a landscape picture of canyons with orange hills that became the backdrop for his train town. The boys built matching cliffs out of damp loam and rocks.

With around 100 feet of track, the trains take up most of the basement. Several stations and a train yard hold the parked engines. But the scene isn't finished yet. Hunter said he hopes to be able to finish his train set soon so he can enjoy the completed tracks.

"After they grew up there wasn't much possibility for me to work on it," Hunter said. "I have a lot of derailments down there (in the basement)."

The railroad layout in Hunter's basement was based on the use of steam locomotives in the early 20th century.

"We don't have a diesel engine on the place," he said.

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