

Students crucial in governance board

Students should have a stronger voice in decisions made at the University and have more representation at governing meetings.

When the University Assembly, the current decision-making body, makes curriculum and policy changes, the students are the most effected. But as it exists now, the 1,212 member assembly is made up of only 18 students. This body makes policy, conduct and curriculum decisions. Students only account for 1.8 percent of the assembly.

Eighteen representatives do not provide a true representation of University students.

The University Senate is made up of the same 18 students that are in the assembly and 36 faculty members. The senate can make policy and conduct decisions, but cannot make curriculum changes. The decisions of the Senate can be appealed to the assembly.

We do not need two bodies to govern this campus. It is time for a change that will benefit the students and streamline the University's governance system.

The new governance system proposal would give students more power in the decision making processes at the University. As of Jan. 1, 1996, a revised University Senate will be the decision-making body of the University in all matters of faculty governance if the proposal is approved.

The new senate will be made up of 39 faculty members, 9 student senators, 3 officers of administration and a senate president. Each of the University's schools and departments will be able to elect representatives to the senate. The proposed system would give accountability to the representatives because the senators would have a constituency they would represent.

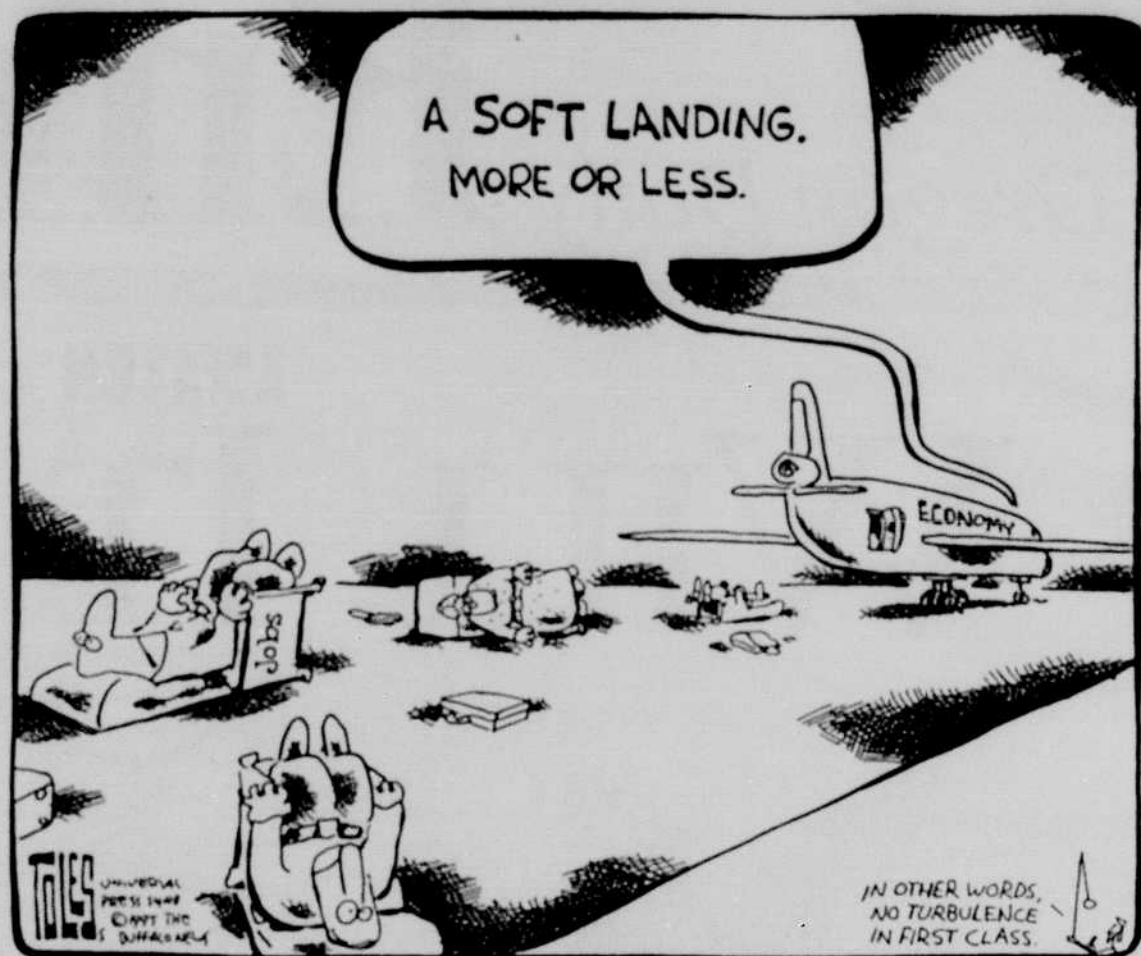
Now, the assembly meetings are poorly attended. At the last meeting, where the assembly was discussing its own existence, fewer than 100 faculty members showed up — that's 10 percent of the voting population. These small numbers, which don't make a quorum by any standards, show that such a large governing body is not effective, and possibly illegal.

One of the reasons this system needs to be reviewed is that the assembly does not follow Oregon Public Meetings Law, which requires a quorum of 50 percent plus one.

At the last assembly meeting, University archivist Keith Richard said the school can no longer support this system because someone is going to take it to court due to it violating this law.

What the University needs is a small senate that will meet regularly and make all decisions about policy, conduct and curriculum. The proposal would give students adequate representation and would be legal.

The assembly should approve the proposal to reform the governing bodies at this institution. It is in the best interest of both faculty and students.



IN OTHER WORDS,
NO TURBULENCE
IN FIRST CLASS.

LETTERS

Confusion

Upon reading today's article on the affirmative action debate (*ODE*, April 27), I was confused. Upon arriving at Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, my confusion was, in turn, further confounded.

Allow me to explain. I am unable to locate a term within said dictionary which was comfortably located within the article in question: reverse discrimination. Webster's has no holdings on the subject, it would seem.

Closer inspection reveals that this work also seems to have misplaced another commonly applied term: reverse sexism. I even went so far as to look under the unlikely title of "reverse rhetoric," but alas these neglected terms were nowhere to be found.

And then I read on to find that Ken Lehrman, director of the affirmative action office, believes that "if the female is equally qualified, then as an affirmative action effort we should hire the woman" and that "this is not preferential treatment."

I did not bother to check Webster's for a definition of preferential — I'll leave that to all of you readers. OAA director Prince Washington tells us that "affirmative action plans are not quota-based," but rather they are based upon "timetables for expanding hiring of women and minorities."

I have not suffered such confusion since Carl Sagan informed me that, "The connection between poverty and high population growth rates, I claim, is not an example of post hoc ergo propter hoc, because we have more data than a mere correlation. We have the repeated worldwide testimony of the poorest people."

In other words, it was more than a correlation by virtue of being such a well established correlation. My dictionary is screaming for mercy, as it did at

that time, but then, who wants to count fallacious arguments.

My point? It is possible that the sundry directors quoted in the *Emerald* may well suffer from conflict of interest and that if we are to discuss the important matter of discrimination, we must insist that the press analyze for rhetoric versus content, reporting reliably and accurately the latest news — a concept which the *Emerald* has traditionally taken to mean better late than ... better late than ...

So let's have some responsible reporting, folks and, for God's sake, let's stick to the dictionary, lest we should find ourselves in a hopeless state of reverse awareness.

Adam Christopher Long
English

Human tragedy

A great human tragedy does not necessarily mean that some people are killed or become homeless. The real human tragedy is when a human being's conscience is unaffected by crimes.

Amnesty International has contacted Israeli authorities to express concern that they were arbitrarily arresting Palestinians in the occupied territories and that military courts were handing out summary justice in violation of human rights.

Soldiers reportedly had been entering homes at night and arresting all teenagers. Amnesty International said it was "concerned that soldiers had arrested

people who had not been involved in the continuing uprising."

Israeli authorities have arrested and detained at least 4,000 people, including children as young as 12 years old. There have been massive beatings and many of the victims were women and children, a great number of whom were hospitalized and some who even died as a result of the beatings.

Amnesty International recommended several measures to ensure detainees were protected from violations of their basic rights under international law, including giving relatives and lawyers accurate information about detainees, whereabouts and prompt, regular access to them.

Another measure recommended by AI was giving the Palestinians the right to prepare their defense and investigating all complaints of inhuman treatment impartially and effectively. Israeli authorities have not yet replied to any of the organization's concerns.

Everyone is invited to come and listen to the "true story" regarding the never ending conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis. The Muslim Student Association is sponsoring a lecture by Mohammed Al-Asi, the Imam of the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C., on Monday, May 15, from 12-1 p.m. in the Walnut Room in the EMU, across from the post office.

Reza Osqui
Muslim Student Association

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Commentaries should be between 600 and 800 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the commentary is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.