

MEETINGS

EMU Board will have a House Committee meeting today at 2 p.m. in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-3720.

Student Health Advisory Committee will meet in the Student Health Medical Library today at 3 p.m. For more information, call 346-4447.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Center will sponsor a Western Conservative Baptist Seminary table today

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU. For more information, call 346-3235.

Family Resources will sponsor the Third Annual Horseshoe Tournament on Saturday starting at 10 a.m. under the Washington-Jefferson Bridge. For more information, call 485-5111.

Faith Center College Age Fellowship will sponsor a Fiesta Night at Faith Center's Family Center at 7:30. Located on 1410 W. 13th and Polk. For more information call 686-9244.

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# Change: OSSHE to consider the proposal

Continued from Page 1A

has been financially limited in recent years due to state budget cuts following the passage of 1990's Ballot Measure 5.

"They don't know how [to improve the system]," said Judith Ramaley, Portland State president. "They only know something needs to happen to prepare higher education in the state for the rapidly changing economic and social conditions that we are now experiencing in Oregon."

Joseph Cox, chancellor of the Board of Higher Education, is the chief proponent of the changes. "We will focus on reexamining what resources we have available to us and whether we are using those resources to do the right thing, in the right place, in the right way," Cox said in a statement released to the media last week.

A two-university model is only one of many possible scenarios Cox hopes to have ready for the board to consider.

Others include creating a single board of education governing all institutions from kindergarten to college, rather than a separate board for higher education and another for the other levels; allowing campuses to become public corporations; and transferring half of state higher education funds into vouchers to be used to pay for state public or private schools.

Another restructuring possibility is to merge programs, making Portland the system's engineering, high-tech and international business center.

Frohnmayr said restructuring the system of higher education could benefit the University by allowing it to deliver services to more areas.

"It would allow us to be in more places than one and it would expand our geographic and educational presence," he said.

Cox said changes in higher education are needed now due to limited state and student resources.

"Because both the state's and the resources of students are limited, we will need to find more cost-effective ways to

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- 1 University of Oregon
- 2 Oregon State University
- 3 Portland State University
- 4 Western Oregon State College
- 5 Southern Oregon State College
- 6 Eastern Oregon State College
- 7 Oregon Institute of Technology

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teach," he said.

Tim Griffin, the board's vice chancellor of corporate and public affairs, said the board has received mixed reviews on how it handles the education system.

"We've had funding cut after funding cut, and we've had both positive and critical comments about how the system of higher education delivers," he said.

Frohnmayr said now is a good time for restructuring because business communities are realizing how valuable higher education is.

"Business leaders are really seeing higher education as one of the guiding forces of economic strength in the future," Frohnmayr said.

He also said that restructuring the system may encourage investment in higher education, which may be needed because more people will be going to colleges and universities.

In the next four years, high schools will graduate 30 percent more students than in 1995, which means more students will be attending colleges and universities, Frohnmayr said.

The two-university system is only an idea, but concerns are already being raised.

Critics of the plan think the dual system could threaten university independence and fuel

rivalries.

"In the past five years, especially due to the refocusing of resources after Ballot Measure 5, universities have become more and more distinct from each other," Ramaley said.

She is concerned a two-university model would rob Portland State of its urban university uniqueness.

"I'm guessing, because I've gotten very little information to judge the possible impact, but those schools that have chosen strategies like this in the past have not promoted institutional distinctiveness," she said.

Ramaley believes the two-university model would make the higher education system more rigid when the system needs more flexibility and specialization to respond to a rapidly changing Oregon, she said.

"It isn't clear to me from what I've seen whether PSU would retain its distinctive urban university mission."

Steven Reno, president at Southern Oregon State, in Ashland said that he doesn't have enough information to form an opinion of the proposal, which so far only seems to call for a name change.

"All I know from the proposal is the name of my college would change to UO at A," Reno said.

However, he said if that name change includes being managed by the University of Oregon or becoming one of its satellites, "It is unacceptable and it would compromise the identity, integrity and the autonomy of this institution."

Ramaley likened the push to revamp higher education to being at the start of a race and knowing where the finish line is, but having no idea how to get there.

The start is knowing that higher education needs to be integrated into the rest of the state's investment strategy, and the finish line is the successful implementation of whatever plan will best accomplish this goal, she said.

But until then higher education officials are left running in circles.

"Is it a sprint, or a cross-country race?" Ramaley asked. "I don't know."

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