

THIS WEEK
MONDAY: Opinion
TUESDAY: Politics
WEDNESDAY: Opinion
THURSDAY: Politics
FRIDAY: Opinion

OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

CONTACT US
BY MAIL: P.O. Box 3159,
 Eugene, OR 97403
BY PHONE: (541) 346-5511
BY E-MAIL: ode@oregon.
 uoregon.edu
IN PERSON: Suite 300, EMU

Rightful student-staff relations respectable

OUR OPINION: The details of a new University Senate dating policy are what's important

The University is worried — and talking — about a fuzzy problem that has hovered over the campus for years.

On May 8, the University Senate agreed to pass a policy viewing sexual relations between a faculty or staff member and a student as unethical and an abuse of power if the student is enrolled in a class taught by the professor.

But that wasn't the end of it. Senate members have debated "precise language" in the policy — and still do. On Oct. 9, the governing body made up of students, faculty and staff met once again to fight over, among other things, whether the burden of proof lies with the accused or the accuser, what party in the relationship should adjust in the event of an accusation and who has and should have power in such a complicated relationship.

And if everybody finally agrees on the particulars, the final policy will become reality on Oct. 23 at a Senate hearing. Then, a faculty-student relationship will be accountable to anyone who wants to file a complaint, whether that be one half of the relationship or a third party.

We here at the Emerald don't really care if a student and a professor want to have sex. Go for it — granted each partner has taken care of business. No, we aren't talking about birth control — important as it is — but the dreaded conflicts of interest.

If the student has never been or never will be in a class taught by the professor, the relationship is steering clear of most potential conflict. Of course, even this is difficult as most students meet professors in classes, not at professor-student mixers.

But theoretically, there are members of the University community who have followed all the rules and it is these people who should be protected by, as well as from, the potential Senate legislation.

Unfortunately, too many relationships have broken the strict rules regarding conflict, making it necessary for the Senate to make it easy to accuse potential offenders

and harder for them to prove their innocence. Even in a relationship that is clearly consensual, a third party can submit a complaint and in turn, force the couple to thoroughly (and possibly publicly) prove no rules were broken.

Many problems exist in student-faculty relationships that affect a great number of people, the majority of which are valid. But many people are doing things the right way and could be questioned and possibly punished for it.

When the Senate votes next week, they'll have many specifics to determine beforehand that will decide whether the policy becomes a just law banning unfair practice or a broad proclamation banning chaste behavior. We trust they'll make the right decision.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

LETTERS

Save your money

Once again, parking is a major problem. Once again, the University is doing nothing about it. Campus commuters are paying \$63 for spaces that may not even be available to them. The money would almost be better invested in the reputable business of the ODE classifieds, which offer work-at-home jobs with thousand dollar a month incomes. And you only need to send them \$20 to find the key to success (Trust me, you won't be the one getting rich).

The faculty and students are rightfully fed up with parking, arriving at school way ahead of time just to make sure they can get to class. Selling twice as many permits as spaces, you might as well make Al Davis of the Oakland Raiders the new University President. So they want to open up Autzen Stadium for parking — what kind of solution is that? Nothing like paying more than sixty bucks for a one mile walk. Better yet, save the money and park above

18th Avenue. It's a shorter walk, and hell, it's free.

Gregory Darusmont
Economics

Change LTD routes

Don't build new parking garages on campus. Improve the bus system. I've gone from being a devout mass-transit groupie to considering driving my car to class for two reasons.

1. I have to change buses at Eugene Station, which makes what should be a 20 minute commute last 35 minutes.

2. Most buses change to an hourly schedule at 6:30 p.m. If I get out of my classes at 6:20 p.m., I've already missed the 6:17 bus from the campus station. I might as well wait for the 7:17 bus because the #40 leaves Eugene Station at 6:30 and 7:30 but not at 7:00.

Bruce Waller
Germanics

Men need teaching

As a volunteer for Sexual Assault Support Services, I appreciate efforts to create an aware-

ness about sexual assault. Unfortunately, those efforts often reinforce the barriers to creating a rape-free environment, as did the second article of the Emerald's three-part series on sexual assault.

While there is something to be said for awareness, we need to be careful when we talk to women about self defense and self protection. Too often the lists of do's and don't's for women result in endless victim blaming. Just as "getting raped ... is not a natural consequence of drinking," neither is it a natural consequence of "walking, studying and biking after dark" or not locking one's doors, as the article suggests.

Under the heading "Education," ASUO Mediation Program Director Jacqui Gibson said, "We have to teach women to protect themselves and create a world where sexual assault doesn't happen."

Wrong. We have to teach men to create a world where sexual assault does not happen. To put the responsibility solely on women is not only sexist,

but perpetuates the rape culture. Women are not responsible for stopping sexual assault. Women (and yes, some men) are the victims and survivors of sexual assault. It is men who rape, it is up to men to stop rape.

If women have any responsibility, it is to stop living in fear. For only when we refuse to be afraid any longer will we begin to take back the night every night.

Rebekah Orr
Journalism

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

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

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: Steven Asbury

Managing Editor: Jennifer Carter **Night Editor:** Steven Asbury

Community: Jennifer Schmitt, *editor*; Jean Bond

Entertainment: Nicole Kreuger, *editor*; Jesse Stephenson

Higher Education: Kristine Sohney, *editor*; Tamara Houser, *in-depth*; Benjamin Kwasney

Opinion: Ashley Bach, *editor*; Chris Hutchinson, *illustrator*; Brian Diamond, Larry Hattl, Sonja Sherwood

Politics: Shana Cohn, *editor*; Doug Irving

Special Projects: Tiffany Smith

Student Activities: Kristin Bailey, *editor*; Angie Suchy, Tom Potter

Sports: Mark McTyre, *editor*; Andrea DeYoung, *assistant editor*; Chris Hansen, Ryan Frank, Ryan Halvorsen

Copy Desk: Thom Schoenborn, *copy chief*; Trevor Kearney, Sarah Kickler, Mike Schmierbach, Kendra Smith

Presentation: Dennis Bolt, *editor*; Cosmos Corbin, Matt Garton

Photography: Matthew Stiffler, *editor*; Andrew Brackensick, Joe Bunik, Amanda Erickson, Shannon Kilduff, Chad Patteson

Freelance: Lara Pittman, *editor*; On-Line: Nicholas Stiffler, *director*

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Advertising: Becky Merchant, *director*; Anne Amador, Lee Yen Beh, Marco Ching, Yujin Chi, Matt Johnson, Anne Miller, Trina Shanaman, Rose Soil, Matt Solomon, Greg Walsh

Classified: Tara Sloan, *manager*; Natasha Lumpkin, Debbie Levy, Heather Moyer

Production: Michele Ross, *manager*; Ingrid White, *coordinator*; Shawna Abele, Laura Daniel, Tara Knight, Melissa Lebahn, Molly McCanta, Allison Stormo, Mike Young

Business: Kathy Carbone, *supervisor*; Judy Connolly

Distribution: John Long, Jeff Johnson, Ferenc Rakoczi

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511

Display Advertising: (541) 346-3712

Business Office: (541) 346-5512

Classified Advertising: (541) 346-4343