

# Senate endorses IFS statement

■ **LETTER:** The statement supports Gov. Kitzhaber's plan for education funding

By Laura Cadiz  
Higher Education Editor

In a symbolic gesture, the University Senate voted yesterday to endorse a statement, drafted by the Inter-institute Faculty Senate, that presented concerns about the future of higher education.

Responding to budget cuts, IFS requested the Senate endorse the spirit of the statement. The letter supports Gov. Kitzhaber and the steps he has taken to protect

higher education funding.

"We're asking each of the senates of the system to endorse either the concept of the letter or the letter," said Paul Simons, IFS representative.

According to the letter drafted by Jack Cooper of Portland State University, the IFS asks for support of the following four goals:

"To fund at least the present range of course offerings, so that all Oregonians will have the programs that they need for their intellectual, professional and economic development.

"To freeze the cost of tuition, so that Oregonians will not be de-

nied access for lack of money, and students in college will not, as many do now, have to devote to supporting themselves time that they need for their studies.

"To raise faculty salaries to a level close to the nation average, so that excellent faculty can be attracted and current faculty retained.

"To provide adequate funding for those courses and those programs that are needed for Oregon's economic development."

"We want all of you to join us to endorse this or do something else that supports the Governor's budget," Simons said.

# Mock date rape trial ends in hung jury

■ **TRIAL:** The goal of the exercise was to stimulate discussion about the place of the rape survivor in the legal justice system

By Angie Suchy  
Student Activities Editor

Whether the mock rape trial "JustUs" delivered justice or not is still a question in the minds of those who watched the proceedings of the trial in the EMU Ballroom Wednesday night.

Over 1,000 people witnessed a mock trial designed to raise questions about the legal justice system's rape survivors.

Sponsored by the Student Health Center, the trial consisted of a Lane County District Court Judge, a 12-member jury, local lawyers and students acting as the parties involved in the alleged rape.

After nearly three hours of testimony in the trial, the jury delivered no verdict — it was hung by a 9-3 count of not guilty. The discussion following the verdict reflected the distraught views of both jurors and audience members.

"This trial was very realistic, in a sense," said senior Mitch Mitchell, a juror.

Prior to the trial, "the judge and lawyers stressed the seriousness of this educational event," Dodd said. "Dealing with a case that seriously affects the entire lives of two people is beyond a 'mock' event."

Those who played the roles of the rape survivor and the accused auditioned for the part, and took the trial seriously as well.

University student Hillary Parish, who played the role of Veronica, the survivor, said her goal was "to prove that the act was against her will, and to show women that they can press charges."

Lane County Judge Lauren Holland said she chose to participate in the mock trial because of the unique chance for the public to see this type of proceeding.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to talk about issues people don't really like to talk about," Holland said.

The characters, as well as the trial itself, were based on a guide and a transcript that was purchased from Texan Christian College. The outcome of the trial was not predetermined; the guide was a basic outline of the details of the night in question, Dodd said. He organized the event after seeing it enacted at a conference where he was moved by the performance.

"The woman who played the survivor there was crying on the stand, and I felt for her," Dodd said. "She lost her world."

Another goal of the trial was to increase awareness about the difficulty surrounding the burden of proof in a rape trial, Dodd said.

"We want to concentrate on the social issues that surround sexual assault, rather than the verdict," he said.

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