

Three schools granted university status

■ **BILL:** The state colleges received new names after a House Bill approved them for university status

By Laura Baker
Student Activities Reporter

Gov. John Kitzhaber signed House Bill 2364 Tuesday, changing the names of three Oregon State System of Higher Education colleges to universities.

Eastern Oregon University,

Southern Oregon University and Western Oregon University are the new titles for the three regional colleges. These schools meet the standards for university status.

"There are few governors that have the opportunity to create three universities in a single day," Kitzhaber told the Associated Press.

According to House Bill 2364, the colleges offer a full range of baccalaureate programs and graduate programs, making them eligi-

ble for university status.

"This change is in recognition of how these schools have expanded and evolved over time," said Lisa Stevens, director of communications and corporate relations for OSSHE.

"Changing the names of the colleges simply recognizes them for what they are: comprehensive regional universities with the breadth and depth of programs that meet the criterion for univer-

sity status," OSSHE Chancellor Joseph Cox said in a press release.

Stevens said this name change gives these schools full recognition of the improved academic programs.

According to the press release, more than 80 percent of institutions with an enrollment between 2,000 and 6,000 students with a similar mission statement as these three colleges are designated as universities nationally.

Green: Coach made decision early Tuesday morning

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said Oregon forward Henry Madden.

The announcement came as a surprise, as Green's name had not surfaced in reports the past week in connection with the coaching vacancy. Green was also a finalist for the LSU coaching job, but four weeks ago took his name off that list.

"I'm coming here because Doug Dickey asked me to come here. I really believe it's a special time for the University of Tennessee," Green said.

Oregon athletic director Bill Moos said a counter offer from Oregon probably would not have made much of a difference in Green's decision to leave the school.

"I really don't feel personally that compensation was as big a factor in Jerry's decision as some other things and having to do with the opportunity in his mind to get to the Final Four before his coaching career is over," Moos said.

Tennessee had been concentrating its efforts on hiring a new coach after Kevin O'Neill resigned March 11. Green will become the 15th coach in the school's history.

"I'm looking forward to having him lead this program, not only as an expert coach, but as a quality man we'll all be proud to have in our program," Dickey said.

The Scripps Howard News Service reported Monday that Oral Roberts head coach Bill Self and Delaware head coach Mike Brey had both

interviewed for the Tennessee job with Dickey while at the Final Four in Indianapolis Sunday.

Moos said Dickey asked him late last week for permission to visit with Green, and Moos said he returned Dickey's call immediately giving the athletic director permission to pursue the coach.

Green met with Dickey to discuss the job on Saturday and Sunday and finally made a decision early Tuesday morning.

The coaching opportunity is a chance for Green to return to his roots in the South, where he played collegiately in North and South Carolina and later coached at the high school and college level. He also finished his master's in education at East Tennessee State.

After being hired at Oregon to begin the 1992-93 season, Green won just 10 games in each of his first two years at Oregon, after replacing Don Monson. Green then enjoyed his most successful season, a 19-9 campaign in 1994-95, in what would be Oregon's first trip to the NCAA Tournament in 34 years. Green is 72-70 at Oregon and 222-178 overall in 14 seasons with UNC-Asheville and Oregon.

The Ducks' only other postseason appearance in Green's five seasons was this year's loss to Hawaii in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament.

Kansas head coach Roy Williams, who Green was the top assistant for at Kansas from 1988-1992, endorsed Green for the job.

"My dream is to be back in the Final Four, it could be soon, depending on those guys in short pants, they scored a lot more points and play better defense than I do."

— Jerry Green
Former Oregon Basketball Coach

"The basketball program at the University of Tennessee will show positive results immediately," said Williams. "Jerry will work extremely hard and do things the right way, and he will also have student-athletes who will do the same thing."

At Tennessee, Green said he likes the challenge of filling the 25,000 seats at Thompson-Boling Arena.

"I think if we can fill it up at Oregon, we can do it at a lot of places," he said. "I didn't come here to be mediocre."

When Green came to Oregon he inherited a Monson-coached team that finished the 1991-92 season 6-21. This time around his task will be to rebuild an 11-16 Tennessee squad.

"My dream is to be back in the Final Four, it could be soon, depending on those guys in short pants, they scored a lot more points and play better defense than I do," Green said.

Moos said he hopes to hire a coach to replace Green within the next week.

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