

Formal complaint process will be changed

By Laura Cadiz
Higher Education Editor

The University Senate decided Wednesday to change the way formal complaints against students are handled and passed a resolution that urges the University to change the boundaries of insurance benefits for faculty member's spouses.

When dealing with formal complaints against students, the Student Conduct Code currently has a hearings officer, who is a local attorney, preside over formal hearings. The outcome of this hearing can have repercussions for the student such as suspension, expulsion, a negative notation on a transcript or revocation of a degree.

With the change in the conduct code, the hearings officer will now be replaced with a jury-like panel comprised of faculty and

students.

This change has the potential to make students behave more honestly, said Mandi Hood, Co-chair of the Student Conduct Code Committee, at the senate meeting.

"It adds to the seriousness when you have peers judging you," she said.

Hood also pointed out that every other Oregon State System of Higher Education school has students and faculty members on the hearings board.

"We should bring students and faculty members together in the process," she said.

Jenna Wasson, of the University

Affairs Committee, agreed with Hood for the need to unify the faculty and students.

"Decisions such as these need to be an in-house decision; we're separated from the Eugene community," she said at the senate meeting.

The senate also passed a resolution that seeks to provide insurance benefits for domestic partners and children of University employees. This will include both heterosexual and homosexual partners. Linda King, human resources director, said the benefits are a way to retain good employees.

"It's a way to get, retain and motivate the work force for the University," she said at the senate meeting.

Effective spring term, two other additions were made to the University's Student Conduct Code.

The adoption of Emergency Action and Rape Shield Provision were passed by the University Senate at the end of March.

The Emergency Action adoption allows the University to remove a student who is considered a threat to the safety of the campus community.

An example of a use of this code would be if a student were to be carrying a weapon, assaulting a person or burning a building, said Elaine Green, associate dean and conduct code coordinator. The student would then be removed from campus by police officers, and while awaiting his or her hearing, the University may limit the student's accessibility to the University's campus. These restrictions include, but are not limited to: immediate withdrawal from the University and restrictions on the accused student's presence on the University prop-

erty and/or University events.

"It lays out what the University's obligations are and the due process rights for the accused," Green said.

It's a "missing piece" of the conduct code, said Green.

"There's more concern about violence, and most universities have a procedure to protect the safety of the university. It was a gap in our code that needed to be filled," she said.

Ben Unger, Student Senate Ombudsman, said the Emergency Action addition is the only part of the conduct code that's not student initiated because Green created it. Though Unger is convinced that it's important, he said he still has questions about it being handled correctly.

"I still have concern about room for abuse," he said.

Board: Club Sports ballot measure is heard

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Associate EMU Director Frank Geltner emphasized that these student groups will be placed in the new space, but growing student groups in need of an office space can be added to the area in the future.

Also decided was that the Chinese Student Association will be moving to EMU Room 203. At next week's meeting, the location of other groups and Footnotes will be decided. But board members emphasized the need for making all groups fit.

"When you have a space crunch like we do, not every organization is going to be happy with the outcome," said EMU Board Chair Kim Guevara.

The other main agenda item the board dealt with Wednesday was Footnotes. There was a previous motion to rescind the board's earlier decision to renew Footnotes' EMU lease because of alleged poor business practice.

Members of Footnotes' Board discussed the board's stance on the deletion of an EMU board member's class subscription to Footnotes.

"Decisions were made without the full involvement of all members of the Footnotes Board," said Craig Vanhoutte, a Footnotes employee and adviser to the Footnotes Board.

"Deletion of the file was not premeditated by the Footnotes Board or the Footnotes staff," said



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Dusty Miller and other board members decided the fate of Footnotes Wednesday night in an EMU board meeting.

Devon London, Vice-Chair of the Footnotes Board. "The Footnotes staff erred, and we've made a commitment not to do this ever again ... we have changed our by-laws to legislatively guarantee it."

The board was urged to make a decision and "not dwell any longer on Footnotes."

"Come to closure. Take a vote and then accept the outcome," EMU Director Dusty Miller said.

The board came to closure, for now, by voting 8-4 to maintain the prior vote allowing Footnotes to remain in the EMU.

In addition, the EMU Board discussed a ballot measure that a student is bringing to the ballot on behalf of EMU Club Sports. The Board was asked to take a stand on the measure, which some members said they thought would spur other EMU groups to go to the ballot to request additional

funding.

"This type of ballot measure brings up the question: Is this really what is being asked for or is this the beginning of what will be asked for?" said EMU Financial Officer Susan Racette.

"There is no existing avenue for EMU groups to approach the EMU Board about ballot measures, so this should be looked at in the long term ... maybe the board shouldn't take a stand for or against the measure, but at least look at what could be made available to open the lines of communication," Guevara said.

Other items presented included a proposal to fund \$2,000 of the Ben Linder Symposium, which passed unanimously, and the EMU Cultural Forum was given the board's approval to go to the Student Senate to request \$3,500 for this year's folk festival.

ASUO: Candidates want better communication

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solve students problems with both on- and off-campus housing.

Boyd and Oberitter feel too much of what the current ASUO Executive does doesn't happen on campus, but takes place in Salem and Washington D.C. They plan to bring the ASUO back to campus.

"In recent years the ASUO has dealt too much with off-campus issues and lobbying," Boyd said.

As for a weakness, the two admit to having limited lobbying experience, something they plan to remedy if they are elected.

"We plan to work with Oregon Student Association to learn the skills to become successful lobbyists," Boyd said.

Boyd and Oberitter have years of leadership experience at the University.

Boyd is a music major and for two-and-a-half years held an academic seat on the Student Senate. He spent part of his time on the senate as president.

Oberitter, who is running for the vice president position, is an English major and has been a member of the ASUO consti-

tution court and is currently the editor of the *Oregon Commentator*.

"My experience with managing office staff at the *Commentator* has given me the opportunity to learn about communication. I know how to access to people and find out what's going on," Oberitter said.

Boyd explained their combined experience is a tremendous benefit when taking on the challenges of the ASUO.

"We know how the system works and we look at student government as students from our academic departments," Boyd said.

Boyd believes there is an important difference between himself and Oberitter and other candidates. He said he and his running mate are not just padding their resumes or using this position as a stepping stone to bigger and better jobs in politics, unlike the other candidates.

"We're not going on to become politicians; we don't have to fill political obligations," Boyd said. "We are running for this office to sincerely get more students involved with their University."

ASUO CANDIDATES' DEBATES

MONDAY, APRIL 14
TUESDAY, APRIL 15
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Ben Linder Forum
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