

# ASUO considers publishing course evaluation books

The free pamphlet would give students a better idea of what to expect, the ASUO says

By Doug Irving  
Student Activities Editor

Would you buy something if all you knew about it was its name?

According to the ASUO, that's the way students have to choose classes: based only on an interesting course title or on meeting a requirement.

The ASUO is working on a way to improve students' decisions. It hopes to publish professor and course evaluations before it's time to register for next term.

"The ASUO should be like the Consumer Reports of this University," ASUO Vice President Ben Unger said. "Someone can be looking through their schedule [of classes] and have this pamphlet in the other hand. Then there aren't any lingering questions."

Students fill out professor and course evaluations each term — they are the Scantron sheets that rate the professor and the course on an A to F scale.

The ASUO hopes to print about 5,000 pamphlets that would numerically grade professors and courses based on those evaluations. The pamphlets would be free and would probably be avail-

able wherever students buy class schedules.

"At the end of every term, students fill out these evaluations," ASUO President Bill Miner said. "They never see them again. We should be able to at least keep a check on how our employees are doing."

The University Senate made the last two questions on the evaluation sheets public in the late 1970s. The Senate said the University had to make those results accessible to students.

The University printed out the results and put them in the library for students to look at, said Jack Rice, associate vice provost for academic affairs. Students were also able to get the results from a computer terminal in Knight Library.

"Very few individuals took advantage [of the library copies]," Rice said. "There would be terms where no one would look at them. Access was very limited."

The ASUO is hoping to change that. It already has the evaluations on disks, and it will push to get the information into an accessible format within the next few weeks. The ASUO is looking for volunteers that could enter the data for the pamphlets.

It's publishing the results to help students make intelligent choices, not to make professors

look bad, Unger said.

"It's not saying a class is bad if the numbers are low," he explained. "It just means a student needs to investigate. It says enough that it prods people to ask questions."

The ASUO will consider how to finance the pamphlets over the next week. An early estimate showed a relatively small run of 5,000 pamphlets could cost less than \$1,500. The ASUO is hoping the University will co-sponsor the pamphlets, Unger said.

Students probably won't have to pay for the pamphlets.

"People pay enough to the ASUO not to have to squeeze this one in, too," Unger said. "We want it to be free. I really don't think it's the students' responsibility to pay for the whole thing."

#### Voter turn-out

About 50 percent of the registered voters in the University precincts had cast their ballots by Tuesday night.

The ASUO had pushed students to register to vote and to participate in the election. It sponsored forums about the ballot measures and drove students to the Lane County Elections Office to vote.

It did not expect this kind of turn-out, though.

"This is awesome," said Brian

Riehm, ASUO state affairs coordinator. "This is amazingly high. It's quite amazing."

#### Riot fall-out

The ASUO has switched into a "crisis mode" to deal with party problems in the wake of Halloween's West University riot, Unger said.

Miner will meet with Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey today about how to deal with out-of-control parties. The mayor is concerned with the West University area and is considering stronger ordinances against large parties.

Student leaders are looking at producing "Party Packets" that would advise potential party-throwers on how to prevent problems, how to deal with problems that develop, and what kinds of penalties they could face if they let a party get out of hand.

The University used to provide similar packets a few years ago, Unger said.

The ASUO is also talking with Eugene police about visiting party-throwers before the party to prepare them for potential problems. That could also lessen the tension between police and students.

Students don't always cause the riots, Unger said, noting that most of those arrested after the Halloween riot weren't students.

"But there's all this animosity

between the police and the students," he said. "That isn't healthy, and it isn't helping the situation."

Student leaders are also working with the University to provide more on-campus entertainment to keep students occupied. Miner and Unger have suggested reopening the EMU Beer Gardens on Friday nights. They will also look at opening McArthur Court to weekend events.

"People just don't find anything fun at the University on a Friday night," Unger said. "They need to give us some alternative. We're safer and better here."

#### Library hours

A recent survey of 577 students found more than 50 percent would use Knight Library until midnight, and 46.4 percent of them could use it 24 hours a day.

More than half the students surveyed said general education at the University suffers because of a lack of places to study.

The ASUO will use the statistics to lobby the University faculty to extend library hours, Controller Kevin Mullerleile said.

"This was no surprise at all," he said. "We understand the majority want more library hours. It'll obviously cost the University a little, but the benefit far outweighs the cost."

# Task force on homelessness examines funding options

By Michael Burnham  
Community Reporter

Eugene's Homeless and Shelter Task Force may have found a way to loosen the collar on a zoning issue that limits the places where homeless can sleep and provide funds to existing troubled youth and homeless programs.

The task force met Tuesday evening to discuss methods of funding existing homeless and troubled youth programs, and members also discussed three major wording changes to a cur-

rent ordinance code that limits homeless camping spaces. The task force is composed of mayor Jim Torrey and council members Patrick Farr and Bobby Lee. The City Council will take action on the task force's proposals at its Nov. 17 meeting.

The changes that will be proposed before the council include letting homeless sleep in their cars in commercial and industrial areas for a 24-hour time period; allowing residents, owners or tenants to consent to have a limited number of homeless per-

sons stay overnight on their premises; and letting consenting churches or other religious facilities allow homeless to sleep in their parking lots. These changes would provide temporary solutions for the city to deal with the homeless until they can find more long-term solutions.

"We're hoping to see progress made on all of those proposals and some language changes made to the ordinances," said Tom Musslewhite of the Homeless Action Coalition and a proponent of the proposed ordi-

nance changes.

Musslewhite, who is on the steering committee for the Homeless Action Coalition, said he is especially encouraged by the proposal to let homeless sleep in the parking lots of consenting religious facilities because it would "afford the religious community to practice their faith."

"We [the Homeless Action Coalition] believe it is a significant step toward helping the homeless," he said. "We're hoping to see some ground gained in all of those areas."

Charles Gray, Co-chairperson of the Homeless Action Coalition, said he is also in favor of the direction the task force is going. But Gray said he would also like to see long-term affordable shelter provided for the city's homeless.

In addition to the ordinance changes that will be proposed by the task force to the rest of the council, funding was approved for two Looking Glass Youth and Family Services Incorporated programs and the Interfaith Emergency Housing Program.

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