

OSSHE changes, shortens name to OUS

By Kari Thorene
Higher Education Reporter

The Oregon State System of Higher Education changed its name to the Oregon University System at its meeting last Friday. It also has a new logo.

The name and logo change will cost \$13,700.

Francesca Clifford of the chancellor's office said the new name better reflects the board's commitment to the university system.

The old name, abbreviated OSSHE, was

"rather cumbersome," Clifford said. "People didn't always know what it meant, what it encompassed, that it referred to public institutions. OUS better represents what we're all about."

OUS includes Eastern Oregon University, the Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, Western Oregon University and the University of Oregon.

Chancellor Cox described the name change as a move symbolizing the changing structure

and responsibilities of OUS.

"Doing business under our new name and logo is an important element in strengthening our communication with higher education's many constituencies and reinforcing our identity as a dynamic, open educational delivery system that has at its core the traditions of learning, inquiry and knowledge," he said in a written statement.

In response to suggestions by Gov. John Kitzhaber, OUS has two committees working on restructuring budget and finance and governance and structure.

Hate: OPS plans to improve record-keeping method

Continued from Page 1A

ty for the city. He said that race motivated nearly 70 percent of the bias crimes.

Despite the Hate/Bias Reporting Act of 1990, which requires law enforcement agencies to record bias incidents, law enforcement officials admit their statistics do not represent the true level of these crimes.

"The low numbers in our statistics are typical. I'm sure there are a lot of things we don't know about," said OPS Lt. Joan Saylor. Instead of reporting the incident to police, some students choose to file confidential reports with the Office of Student Life's conduct code coordinator or go to human-rights groups for help.

This creates a disparity between law enforcement statistics and those of activist groups, which report much higher numbers. For instance, official state

statistics that rely on police numbers show that hate crimes dropped by 45.5 percent from 1996 to 1997. Yet Michele Lefkowitz, director of Communities Against Hate, said she has seen an increase in hate crimes in the last year.

The difference is important because there are more penalties for bias-motivated crime, said Eric Ward, regional coordinator for the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

One reason for the disparity is that definitions of hate crimes differ among the groups and many bias-related incidents are protected by the First Amendment.

"During the 'Ska against Bigotry' [music festival] in June of '97, Neo-Nazi skinheads were saluting and shouting racial slurs" Lefkowitz said. "It's not considered a hate crime, and

people were so scared of retaliation no one would press charges of any kind."

Rikhoff said another reason for the difference in figures is that people of color often see the police as oppressors. According to Saylor, many minorities do not report bias-crime incidents at the University because of a common adversarial relationship between students of color and police.

"Because of their status as minorities, they're not comfortable talking with us," she said. "They have often times been oppressed by police."

Jim Garcia, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, called the disparity between incidents and statistics "a trust issue" that needs to be addressed.

"Hate crimes are still going on, and we need to take down barriers that deter people from reporting them," he said.

Garcia said the planned creation of a position for an assistant dean of multiethnic programs will help deal with this issue.

Saylor said OPS plans to install a better method of record keeping and is making changes within the department to develop closer relationships to minority groups on campus. Saylor has seen bias crimes on campus increasingly directed toward students of color, and away from what was primarily sexual prejudice in the late 1980s.

But this is no consolation to Neyna Thompson.

Thompson said the damage caused by the incident at her dorm affects how everyone sees her, as well as the atmosphere in the building.

"Now everyone thinks it's okay," she said, "and the person didn't get caught."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

OSPIRG is holding a general interest meeting at 7 p.m. in 100 Willamette. For more information, call 346-4377.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Office of Academic Advising and Student Services is sponsoring a workshop on applying to law school at 3:30 p.m. in 164 Oregon Hall. For more information, call 346-3211.

Programs Financing

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee committed \$151,222 of student incidental fees Jan. 15 and Jan. 17. These were the second and third PFC meetings of the season; the 1998-99 budget for every ASUO program will be set by the time the committee finishes its hearings.

ORGANIZATION	1998-99	1997-98	FROM LAST YEAR	CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
Senate and ADCF	\$14,260	\$15,284	-6.7%	-\$1,024
NASU	\$16,064	\$15,739	+2.06%	+\$325
DELTA/GSO	\$710	\$480	+47.91%	+\$230
OSA	\$79,556	\$82,787	-3.90%	-\$3,231
Saferide	\$38,991	\$36,549	+6.68%	+\$2,442
House of Film	\$400	\$317	+26.18%	+\$83
Pre-Health Science	\$610	\$857	-28.82%	-\$247
APALS	\$631	\$300	+110.33%	+\$331

CARA STRAZZO/Emerald

Board hears student parking violation appeals

Thousands of appeals are made each year to the Traffic Petitions and Appeals Board

By Chris Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

"The meter was broken."
"I was coming right back."

University traffic petitions Officer Ruth South has heard thousands of appeals from students over the years.

"There are actually lots of good reasons for appealing a ticket, but just because the parking lot is empty doesn't mean you can park there," South said.

South, an emeritus faculty reference librarian, is part of the Office of Public Safety's Traffic Petitions and Appeals Board. The board decides over 3,500 student appeals each year, which include parking and traffic offenses.

Students who feel they were im-

properly ticketed must first appeal to South through OPS. Then, if their appeal is denied, students can appeal to the Traffic Petitions Board. The board, which meets once a month, consists of two faculty members, two classified staff personnel, and two students appointed by the ASUO, said Rand Stamm, parking and transportation manager for OPS.

The board can then either waive the fine, deny the appeal or reduce

the fine.

"The system works pretty well," South said. "There are legitimate reasons for waiving violations or refunding fines, and students can come in front of the board to present their case."

Parking and traffic offenses for students range from \$10 for meter violations to \$100 for parking in disabled spaces, she said. The board gives students the chance to suggest changes in traffic and parking policy.

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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 in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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