

On-line voting sunk by complaints

Nothing was wrong with the system itself, elections officials say

By Jason George
Oregon Daily Emerald

Voting through Duck Web took place in the primary elections but not in the general elections because of excessive complaints.

Elections Coordinator Taylor Sturges said that too many people complained about the new tool.

"There was nothing wrong with Duck Web, but people were uneducated with it," Sturges said.

She said that Student Senator-elect C.J. Gabbe filed a grievance and that OSPIRG voiced concern.

"Because the grievances kept

piling up, it was just easier to drop it," Sturges said.

A meeting between ASUO President Geneva Wortman, former ASUO coordinator Cheryl Hunter, Constitution Court members and the Elections Board decided to not use Duck Web in the general election.

Sturges said she would have liked to have used Duck Web in the general elections, but it was not a decision for her to make on her own.

Gabbe said he filed his grievance because Duck Web was not monitored by a third party. However, Sturges said the monitoring of Duck Web was done by the Computing Center.

"Someone has cracked into the Defense Department, [and] I think someone could get into Duck

Web," he said. "I don't think [Sturges] could know if it actually worked correctly."

Oregon State University used on-line voting this year, and it was a success, according to Paul Evans, student advocate at OSU.

At the University, another situation that was not resolved before the election was the status of computers as polling stations. Sturges said only the computers in the EMU computer lab were considered polling stations.

"I think we need to take a step back and examine the rules," Student Senator Jerome Grzybowski said.

Grzybowski said campaign material cannot be displayed within 50 feet of polling stations, but this cannot be monitored in dorms.

Fancy printer proves costly for AAA

High-quality color digital imaging is needed by students for projects

By Amy Horton
for the Emerald

After three years of high hopes, technical problems and a disappointing response from students, a color printer-copier in the Science Library has been returned to its owner, leaving the University library system with a probable \$39,000 bill.

The Canon CLC-800/ColorPass 4000 printer was returned last week to a local office supply company after spending less than two terms in the Science Library and more than two years in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

At both locations, the printer plagued staff and students with numerous technical problems and low usage that made it financially

impossible to keep.

The printer was leased by the architecture school in 1996 for \$84,000 to help incorporate the use of technology into the AAA curriculum. Many AAA students then came to depend on high-quality, color digital imaging for their projects, said Andrew Bonamici, who oversees printing services for the library system.

Students paid to use the printer with a punchcard system, but use was not high enough to cover the \$1,200-a-month lease. Printing fees also didn't provide adequate staff support, a necessity because of the complexity of the machine, said Robert Melnick, dean of the architecture school.

"We were losing thousands of dollars a year," he said.

Over winter break, the printer was transferred to the Science Library and its lease was assumed

by the University library system. The transfer cost the library \$5,000 in installation and other expenses, Bonamici said.

But at its new location, the printer continued to be a source of student complaints and quickly became a financial liability. Despite being on the same pay-to-print program as printers in other campus libraries, the color printer didn't recoup costs.

Troubleshooting and supporting the machine, which was often out of order, was very labor-intensive, Bonamici said.

Administrators hope their financial obligation is now over, but the answer is uncertain. Ikon Office Solutions, which leased the printer to the University, has suspended payments, but it is unknown whether the remaining \$39,000 on the lease will be wiped clean, Bonamici said.

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