

# Committee approves proposal to pay council

■ If it is approved by City Council, voters will have the chance to vote on the ballot measure

By Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Though Eugene mayors and city councilors work 20-50 hours per week, often sacrificing their employment opportunities and vacation times, they have never been paid.



However, a committee of Eugene residents appointed by City Council approved a proposed ballot measure Thursday night that would nullify the City Charter provision prohibiting the compensation of mayors and council members.

After about three months of research and deliberation, the committee decided mayors should receive from the city budget a monthly stipend of \$1,500 and city councilors should receive \$1,000 per month. The committee recommended those figures be annually adjusted to match inflation.

If City Council approves the proposed charter amendment, Eugene voters will make the final decision in either the May or November elections. If the measure passes, it will go into effect beginning July 1, 2001.

Committee members hope that compensating mayors and city councilors will increase the diver-

sity of potential candidates and, therefore, improve representation in Eugene. However, the committee had to settle on a dollar amount lower than their ideal sum to ensure voters approve the amendment.

"The majority of us felt that the job was worth more, but a larger amount wouldn't have passed the voters," committee member and retired Register-Guard opinions writer Don Bishoff said.

City Councilor David Kelly, who said he's cut his computer consulting business's workload by 75 percent since joining City Council, said qualified City Council and mayoral candidates often choose not to seek election for financial reasons.

"I don't think we should make it a condition for running for council or mayor that people be either wealthy enough to not work or be willing to impoverish themselves, which are the options we have now," Kelly said.

In addition to holding down jobs in the private sector, city councilors meet at least seven hours per week. Also, they spend time on committees, preparing reports for council meetings, attending intergovernmental meetings and fielding telephone calls, e-mails and letters from constituents.

"The stipends aren't full compensation for time and expertise and won't allow people in every economic situation to run, but it should allow more people to run," committee member and Friends of Eugene president Rob Zako said. "There's a good chance the voters will support this."

## Safety walk

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the older light fixtures are very high and difficult to clean and maintain, while the light bulbs in some of the newer fixtures are easily replaceable with brighter bulbs. Some replacements have already taken place.

Ath Norgaard, a senior journalism major who frequently uses the Knight Library at night, said she participated in the walk to get a better idea of where potentially dangerous areas may be and also to show support to the cause.

"I think it is important to show support for issues like lighting on campus because over the years, it has been a constant issue," she said.

Eliot said the safety walks give people a chance to come together and explore problems and solutions with different experts present.

Byron McCrae, assistant dean of student life, said walking with a group provided an opportunity to identify potentially dangerous spots that he might not notice.

"It was helpful for me to see what other folks thought," he said.

McCrae was especially concerned with lighting along the Bean parking lot, the largest student lot on campus. Although the parking lot appeared to be sufficiently lit to most participants of the walk, McCrae questioned whether the existing lighting

would allow someone who was assaulted on the lot to describe the attacker to police.

Eliot said she would like to add lighting at the parking lot, considering its distance from campus and its potential for crime because of the large number of cars parked there.

McCrae and Eliot said lighting and campus safety might be related to sexual assault. Eliot said that although experts are divided about the effectiveness of lighting in stopping sexual assault, she feels that brighter lights might contribute to people's confidence.

"If people feel safe, they will look safe, and I think that's really important," she said.

At the end of the walks, both groups gathered in the EMU to exchange their impressions.

Thomas Fitzpatrick, OPS director, commended the groups' attempt to make the campus safer. However, he pointed out that even the brightest lights should not prompt students to let down their guard.

"I've always maintained that regardless of how bright the lighting ... the only real safety we have is in utilizing our common sense," he said.

Students will have two more opportunities to explore safety on campus next Wednesday and Thursday. Next weeks' walks will take students by Villard, Dady, Lawrence and Allen Halls as well as across the bridge to Duck's Village.

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### Call for Nominations for Faculty Awards for Distinguished Teaching

**Deadline for Nominations: MARCH 1, 2000**

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are invited to submit nominations for any faculty members, tenure or non-tenure related, who have taught at the University of Oregon for a minimum of two (2) years. The *Ersted Award* and *Thomas F. Herman Award* are presented annually at Spring Commencement to University of Oregon faculty members for distinguished teaching. Each award will be accompanied by a recurring monetary award. [Please note that Graduate teaching fellows have their own competition and are ineligible for these awards.]

#### Eligibility for Awards

#### Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching

The late Mr. A. J. Ersted established the *Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching* so the University of Oregon could annually honor faculty members "who have taught comparatively short periods and have demonstrated exceptional abilities to induce students to reason and not merely memorize." The Ersted Award is presented only to faculty who are early in their teaching careers. This teaching may occur at the undergraduate or graduate level.

#### Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Awards for Distinguished Teaching

This award honors senior faculty members who have achieved outstanding records as teachers. The *Thomas F. Herman Award* is presented only to faculty members who have academic rank at the University of Oregon for at least seven years, and who have demonstrated longstanding excellence in teaching and have contributed significantly to student learning at the undergraduate level.

Nominations will be accepted either through submission of the following form or by e-mail. If your nomination is by e-mail, please make sure that you include all information contained on this form.

**Send your nomination form to:**  
Lorraine G. Davis  
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs  
207 Johnson Hall, University of Oregon

**E-mail your nomination to:**  
Gwen Steigelman  
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I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check one)

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My reason(s) for nomination are: (You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

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