

OUS meeting

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During its meeting, which was held at the University, the board also approved its legislative concepts for the 2001 Oregon State Legislature and listened to public testimony from Western Oregon University faculty about increasing pay rates. Rep. Ben Westlund, R-Central Oregon, spoke at the meeting in an attempt to promote lobbying.

Autzen expansion approved

The board unanimously approved the University's request to take the Autzen funding proposal to the state Emergency Board to keep the project on schedule for its targeted completion date of fall 2002. The Emergency Board approves funding for time-sensitive projects while the Legislature is not in session.

"The nature of the emergency has to do with the phasing of the construction," said Lynda Swanson, the university system's director of facilities, who presented the plan to the board's budget and finance committee.

Construction at the stadium can only be done between football seasons, and the University would like to begin work by November of this year. This prompted the request for emergency funding from the state, Swanson said.

The project will be funded mainly through gift donations, anticipated revenue from the sales

of sky boxes in the revamped facility and \$19.7 million in bonds, which the school would repay within a 15-year period, she said.

Dan Williams, vice president for administration, noted that the expansion is one attempt by the University to find alternative sources of revenue, which is necessary for the school to continue to be financially sound, he said.

"This is a business decision based on a sound financial forecast," he told the board committee. "The financial plan is quite conservative. We don't have any reason to believe we won't be successful."

The financial plan would eventually free up almost \$2.3 million in University general funds, which may be added to the faculty salary pool. Some of the revenue generated could go towards funding more women's sports programs to fully comply with Title IX, Williams said.

Public records debate

Several OUS concepts for the 2001 Oregon State Legislative Assembly were also approved by the board, including offering health insurance coverage for graduate students and increasing the system-wide student building fee between 2001 and 2005.

Kellie Shoemaker, the legislative director for the Oregon Student Association, raised her group's concerns about the fee increase proposal during the board's budget and finance committee meeting. She asked that the board

approve only the fee increase for the first two years and readdress the issue in 2003.

Despite her testimony, the board approved all the legislative concepts except a proposal to exempt donor information from the public record.

The issue stirred up some controversy, as several members of the public spoke during the public input session.

Rob Priewe, managing editor of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, spoke before the committee about the importance of keeping all records public.

"Frankly, I've never asked for this information, and neither has any member of my staff, to my knowledge, but that doesn't mean it's not important that it's part of the public record," he said. "We're living in a society that is becoming less free and more paranoid. We already have too many secrets, which only erode trust in government."

Priewe's sentiments were echoed by Jim Upshaw, a journalism professor at the University and faculty adviser for the Society of Professional Journalists. Upshaw urged the committee to give the issue more thought before making a decision.

"This flies in the face of the spirit of open society," he said. "Think about the message this is sending."

But University officials defended the concept, and said individual privacy rights are sometimes more important than keeping the

donor records public.

"This would be a limited exemption rather than a categorical exemption," said Duncan McDonald, vice president for public affairs and development. "The University often wants the world to know who their donors are because it speaks to the quality of the University, but often, it has to do with concerns with family security, because of their wealth."

University President Dave Frohnmayr also defended the concept, noting that he was one of the principal authors of the state's original public records law, but now favored donor exemptions.

"The irony should not be lost on anyone," Frohnmayr said. Approving the concept would keep "very personal" information about donors from being published or broadcast, he added.

The University already has a rigorous process it requires donors to go through before their gift is accepted, and donations "would be spent by the school in the public's general interest, in daylight," he said.

The committee voted to table the public records exemption concept for further review by the board's executive committee at its March 17 meeting. The full board has until April 14 to submit their list of legislative concepts.

Need for more dollars

Funding for higher education was a recurring topic during the meeting as Rep. Ben Westlund spoke about how to increase the

board's odds for getting more funding from the legislature in the future.

"We need to increase funding for higher education," he said. He urged the board to get to know its local representatives and begin lobbying the legislature as soon as possible. He said the board needed at least eight champions of higher education: two in each caucus in both the Senate and the House.

About halfway through the board meeting, a crowd of about 75 people filed into the room, some holding picket signs. Many of them were Western Oregon University students, faculty and staff, who came to decry what they said were low faculty salaries that are preventing OUS schools from recruiting and retaining faculty members.

The Western and the WOU faculty union are engaged in contract negotiations.

Molly Mayhead, a humanities professor at WOU, spoke to the board about the "pitiful situation of salaries at Western Oregon University."

"We lose faculty and our searches fail," she said. "As business owners, could you hire someone at \$9,000 to \$10,000 less than the national average? It just doesn't make good business sense."

Her testimony was met with cheers from many in the crowd.

The board's next regular meeting will be April 21, at Portland State University.

C.J. & Peter

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this past year ... This year I am working as the Multicultural Board Center Chair ... I am working as the US Student Association Regional Director. I am on the Jewish Student Union's Executive Board, and I am activities chair of my fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi.

(PL) I am currently working as the outreach director of the ASUO. I am the co-director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance. ... I was the coordinator of the hiring for the summer internships for diversity.

Q: What sets you apart from the other presidential candidates?

A: (PL) We are 2 people who are coming from 2 very different perspectives and because of that we have a broad range of experience that is necessary for creating student government.

(CG) We are excited to have this opportunity to work on the issues that we care about and that we have had a chance to work on for the past few years and take into the next level and continue to work for students.

Q: How did you decide to run together?

A: (CG) We thought there would be no better two people to have in the exec than two people ... having different experiences within student organizations and with the campus.

(PL) With that, we also are working towards a common goal. We can't build a community at the University without all of these things we are promoting.

Q: What do you consider the two most pressing issues at the University, and what specific plans do you have to address those issues?

A: (PL) The most pressing issue first is what we talked about before: access to education. ... We want to have a large voter registration drive and empower students to get involved in the political process and try to affect change.

(CG) I think another really im-

portant issue at this University too is the issue of how we are going to build a diverse campus community. ... It is something students and administration are working on right now, coming up with a 5-year plan for diversity.

Q: What do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of the University?

A: (CG) I think the greatest strength of the University is the students who are here. Students here are working on so many issues. ... This is where students get power.

(PL) I would say the biggest weakness we see is a lack of communication between students and the administration.

Q: Critique Wylie and Mitra as executive. What would you change?

A: (PL) Wylie and Mitra have done a really great job streamlining the practices of student government. ... I can't say that I could do it better, but I can say that I do want to make sure that student government is accountable like it is now.

(CG) I have seen the ASUO doing a really good job this year. With USSA and the US Student Association, I have been helping with some of the stuff they are doing and it has really shown their commitment to reaching out

Q: Could you critique the diversity issue on campus. What changes, if any, would you make?

A: (CG) We want to make sure we include all students in the dialogue going on around the diversity issue on campus. We want to make sure international students are included in that dialogue.

(PL) One specific thing we would want to do is create a position that serves as a graduate student advocate, so that different perspectives can be included in the work the ASUO does.

Q: How would you represent the University at the state level?

A: (PL) First, it is really necessary we work with state and national organizations in order to

be effective on state and national student issues.


(CG) That also gives us an opportunity to work with other schools in Oregon to form a coalition with working around issues that affect us on a statewide level ... It is important we educate people about both sides of the issues.

Q: How do you see your relations being with the University administration?

A: (PL) Combining outreach to major issues are on campus, and then using our position and our access to the administrators as a way to pass on that information

and convey issues to administrators.

(CG) I think also in addition to working to create forums where other students can come and use that access, like Peter said, to make sure that student voices are really heard with the administration.



You're Invited!

Open Forum

on the

Role of Student Housing in the 21st Century

A Consulting Team has been invited to campus to solicit input on the subject of the role of student housing at the University of Oregon in the next 50 to 100 years.

- ◀ What would you like the atmosphere on campus to be like in the next century?
- ◀ How could student housing play a role?

We welcome and encourage your ideas.

Please join us

Thursday, February 24th
from 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Hamilton Conference Room

located inside the Grab 'N Go Lounge at the Hamilton Commons

Questions? Call University Housing at 346-4277
or email us <housing@darkwing.uoregon.edu>