

Election

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The decision is just one of many made in preparation of a general election that has started and stopped several times already. But even though the major grievances have been decided on and the election date has been set, there are still a few things hanging in the air.

At the same time that former ASUO Vice Presidential candidate Jeff Oliver filed his grievance against fellow executive candidates

Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook, resident assistant David Christensen filed a similar complaint. The complaints alleged housing rule violations when Jacobson and Cook's campaign distributed campaign fliers in the residence halls.

Christensen's grievance, however, was not heard by the Elections Board. In response, Christensen filed a second grievance — this time against the board — for failing to hear his complaint.

Court clerk Scott Austin said that as of Tuesday afternoon, the court had received Christensen's griev-

ance, but its status is pending.

One more motion, this one filed by former Executive candidate Eric Bailey, has been pushed aside. In a one-sentence decision Tuesday, the court denied Bailey's request that the court elaborate on its decision to place Jacobson and Cook back on the ballot.

Another question that remains is what will happen to the votes cast during the two days of ballot measure voting before the election stopped. Shantell Rice, ASUO elections coordinator, said that as far as she can tell, those votes have been declared invalid by the court and

voting will start fresh on April 16.

The Lockfield decision itself has set in motion more changes for the Elections Board to grapple with.

In response to the confusion about senate seats and majors, the court ruled that the board must compile a list of which majors fall into which category.

Rice said it is not her job to sift through every candidate's classes to find out if they're running for the right seat.

"If students don't know what seat they should be running for, maybe they should figure it out," she said.

But Rice also said nowhere in ASUO rules does it say students must run for a seat that represents their major. Even so, she said, someone on the board will probably compile that list either this year or next.

The board, which has five positions, has three members right now.

ASUO President Jay Breslow appointed and the senate confirmed Randy Newnham to one of the empty positions late winter term, and Breslow is still in the process of sifting through applications to fill the final two slots.

Legislature

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If passed into law, Close's bill and accompanying Bill 2476 would allow students to preserve their "student academic freedom" by not having to take classes they found offensive or not related to their major. She said this also would protect students from disagreeable political messages from their professors.

"They can push any propaganda they want through the class," she said.

The bill is currently sitting in the House Committee on Student Achievement and School Accountability and has yet to be scheduled for a hearing. With several pressing legislative concerns still unresolved, such as the budget, Close admitted that it will be an uphill battle to get the bill heard and it could die in committee.

Dr. Ivan Gorne, the vice president for student affairs at SOU, said the school's curriculum receives a rigorous screening process through the

school's faculty and is also reviewed by the university's president. He said he is aware of students becoming offended by some courses, but would not make any specific comment on the student referred to by Close.

While Gorne understood some students may find courses objectionable, he said it would become too difficult of a process to create classes that correspond with every student's sense of morality.

"It can just become unmanageable," he said.

He said he was offended by some material in classes he attended during his education, but said being exposed to such material is only one part of the university experience.

"I guess that's part of one's education," he said.

In regards to Close's proposed legislation, Gorne said he doubted any university would allow the state Legislature to dictate what its curriculum should be.

University Vice President for Academic Affairs Lorraine Davis also said she doubted

there would be any support in the Legislature for a bill that would change curriculum standards. She said the University does not want to give the Legislature that much control over courses and added that state leaders rarely attempt to gain such control.

"I would not expect that kind of bill with that specific kind of power to pass," she said.

Davis said she understands that students have many different opinions and beliefs, and they can be offended by various course material, but said the University's wide range of class and major options gives them plenty of opportunity to avoid offensive content. With such a broad range, Davis said a student would be hard pressed to find themselves stuck in a class that was too offensive.

As the session continues, Davis said the University's legislative relations office will continue to monitor bills that affect higher education.

Rep. Phil Barnhart (D-Eugene), who serves on the Student Achievement and School Accountability committee, said the window for scheduling bill hearings is becoming increas-

ingly tight and he does not believe Close's bill will make it out of committee.

Barnhart was somewhat hesitant to comment on a bill that had not gone through the hearing process, but did say that based on its first draft he could not support it. He said, however, that further testimony from the bill's backers could change his mind.

He said in the wide range of a liberal education there are many different opinions and a student needs to hear all of them for a thorough education.

"There are lots of topics that are morally repugnant," he said, "but you have to be willing to talk about them."

In addition to not supporting the bill on the grounds that it infringes on a complete education, Barnhart said it is an over-extension of the state's authority.

"I think it would mean the Legislature reaching down and telling the universities what to do with their curriculum and we should not tell the universities what classes to teach," he said.

Activism

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Hall home for 10 days said they have become more jaded with the University decision-making process.

But they added the campus shouldn't expect the worker rights issue to disappear completely this summer — it just might move from the steps of Johnson Hall to the steps of the Oregon capitol.

The state Board of Higher Education killed the University's WRC ties when it passed an administrative rule barring schools from joining any existing monitoring group. Many student activists said the fight will now shift from the University to the Oregon Legislature instead.

Melissa Unger said despite the idealism she felt while camping outside Johnson Hall and being arrested during the second day of the protest, she can't help but feel a

twinge of cynicism when she walks by the administration building today. She said those feelings started the day Frohnmayer signed a one-year contract with the WRC, and she knew the school's term with the group might be short.

"There was a feeling that, 'This is awesome. It's what we've been working for,'" Unger said. "But it was obvious he didn't want to be on it. We knew at that point."

Unger, a former student leader in OSPIRG and campaign manager for Executive candidates C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson, said she questioned last summer how or if she wanted to stay involved with campus activities and activism.

But Unger is one of many student activists who have continued their efforts by working in student government, especially those working in ASUO President Jay Breslow's Executive office. Breslow was also arrested during the protest.

As legislative organizer, Unger coordinated last fall's voter registration drive, and has lobbied legislators on student issues such as the proposed cuts to the higher education budget for the next two years.

"Student government has the ability to be a student activism threshold," Unger said.

Unger said her legislative team might pitch a state law regarding Oregon schools' licensing codes of conduct. She said student leaders and activists should handle administrators and legislators similarly, so she will get the chance to put what she has learned during the WRC fight to good use in her lobbying efforts.

She has learned she must walk into a senator's office and sound as knowledgeable and articulate as any other lobbyist if she hopes to get the politicians' attention.

"They both want students in, but they don't want it to get in the way of what they want," Unger said of

administrators and legislators.

Although last spring's WRC protest didn't have specific leaders, graduate Agatha Schmaedick was one of the organizers and a founder of the Survival Center, the main student group that fought for workers' rights last year.

Schmaedick is still working on activist causes in Eugene, though she said momentum has slipped in the past year. But activism tends to dip and surge, she said, and activity will probably increase as the sun comes out this spring.

In the meantime, she is trying to impart her experience from the past four years to the younger students in the Survival Center, and eliminate turnover problems.

But she said activists also need to seek out state Board of Higher Education representatives and other higher education policy makers whom they haven't previously asked for support. Now that a higher

power than the University has made the decision, activists must discover who their new allies and enemies are at the state level.

"We need to try new tactics. We need to see who is now upset," she said.

But Schmaedick added she will not be outside Johnson Hall this year petitioning the administration.

"We're trying to rethink what's really worth spending time on," Schmaedick said. "I don't find it very productive to convince Frohnmayer to do anything because I feel like I can spend all year just trying to get him to just write a letter. But that's not really going to impact the workers."

Amid the demands for improved worker rights, a number of demands for improved campus democracy went unanswered by the administration. Chad Sullivan, who is now the University affairs coordinator in the Executive office, said the struggle for more student voice on University committees squelched much of the momentum built during the 10-day protest.

Sullivan is now looking at the next step, which he called an "institutionalized resistance." During this year, he has worked to assure students are allowed on all University committees, then find students to fill the positions who will responsibly attend the meetings.

Now Sullivan wants to create a permanent structure for student activism with the help of a paid University staff position, much like the staff members who currently work on diversity, women's issues, University Housing and other major campus issues.

He said the staff member would help eliminate problems that exist because of student turnover in the Survival Center. The person would also be a liaison, helping groups such as the Greek system and freshmen in the residence halls become more involved in campus activities.

But, like Unger and Schmaedick, he agreed student activists need to continue networking with other activists, pass on their experiences to younger students and apply their successes and failures in the past year to their efforts at a state level.

"I am always trying to be more strategic with my message," Sullivan said. "I need more training."

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