

Voting begins today for Executive, measures

■ Previously cast votes for this year's ballot measures have been discounted as the election slate is wiped clean

By Beata Mostafavi
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a mess of grievances and decisions muddying the campaign trail, the ASUO general election has started again — for the third time this year. Voting during the election, which begins today and ends at 5 p.m. Wednesday, will be done on a completely clean slate. Any votes cast for ballot measures during the two days of voting last term have been discarded, ASUO Elections Coordinator Shantell Rice confirmed.

The election comes after a series of ASUO Constitution Court decisions overturned some of the decisions made by the ASUO Elections Board. While handling the numerous grievances, the court questioned how the board dealt with the complaints before it during the primary election. In both hearings involving ASUO Executive hopefuls Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook, and in the case of Student Senate candidate Steven Lockfield, the court's decisions clashed with the

board's decisions, leading to a confusing game of musical chairs that removed candidates from the ballot and then put them back on again.

In response to a grievance filed by former vice presidential candidate Jeff Oliver, the board disqualified Jacobson and Cook after their campaign distributed fliers in the University residence halls.

But Jacobson filed for an injunction, which led the court to halt the general election just before it was slated to begin March 5. After a March 16 hearing, the court put Jacobson and Cook back on the ballot, ruling the pair's due process had been violated because the board never officially notified them of the grievance.

The board also removed Lockfield's name from the ballot three hours before voting ended because his major did not match the senate position he was running for, Lockfield said. Again, the court decided in favor of the candidate, ruling he should have another chance to run in the general election because the board did not tell him of the error until just before the polls closed.

But Justice Alan Tauber said some of the problems with the Elections Board's decisions stemmed from the

short amount of time it had to review the rules. He said that normally the ASUO president appoints board members by November, but this year the positions were not filled until January.

"I think given the proper amount of time, a lot of problems could have been avoided," he said. "Things got started so late."

But ASUO President Jay Breslow said the late appointments resulted from the first Elections Board coordinator's resignation in the middle of fall term. He added that all members of the first Elections Board, which was assembled under Rice, had previous involvement with the ASUO. Because of their involvement, Breslow said, all board members were familiar with the rules, which he said were followed.

"We hired a really experienced Elections Board," he said. "And I didn't think the board broke any rules."

The board itself has undergone its own version of musical chairs, as two members graduated at the end of winter term and another resigned after the primary election.

Tauber said there were also some problems with election rules, which the court ordered to be changed in its

decision on Lockfield's grievance.

One of Jacobson and Cook's main arguments was that they heard about their grievance from the Emerald — not from the board. But no current rule requires that the subject of a grievance receive a copy of the complaint, Tauber said.

"It's possible for a grievance to be filed against the subjects, have a hearing held, and remove them from the ballot without them even knowing," Tauber said. "That doesn't seem right."

Matt Swanson, former Elections Board office manager, said that although it was good the court addressed this issue and set a precedent for

next year, he still believes Jacobson and Cook were already aware of the grievance.

Rice said that as far as the board was concerned, proper decisions were made. Election delays had nothing to do with lack of time or knowledge, and it was the late grievances that slowed down the election process, she said.

"Some things were out of our control and made things just not as smooth

as they could have been," she said.

But Lockfield argued that if board members knew the rules, he would have been notified of the problem with his application earlier. Lockfield ran for the social sciences senate seat, but was disqualified because his history major falls under arts and letters, not social sciences. Lockfield said he did not learn of his disqualification until he went to vote for himself and did not see his name on the ballot.

"I would have hoped they would've looked through my application and put two and two together, and perhaps I would have had time to change the problem," he said. "I don't think they knew their own rules ... And it's their duty to safeguard against errors like these."

Jacobson said that although he believes the board did make some mistakes due to late appointments of its members, the court overturned many of those decisions and the election resumes without any more problems.

"We don't really blame anyone because we know that they had a huge job to do," he said. "They made a few mistakes, but in the long run the court corrected those and things should run smoothly from here on out."

Drivers discover these boots were made for stopping

■ Local authorities say the recent increase in bootings is purely coincidental

By Marty Toohey
for the Emerald

If you have more than \$30 worth of city of Eugene parking tickets, watch out: You might get the boot.

City of Eugene parking attendants are authorized to attach a boot, a restrictive metal device, to the front wheel of any vehicle with \$30 or more of outstanding parking tickets, and some people have noticed an increase in bootings around campus.

Wednesday afternoon, four cars within two blocks of the 11th Avenue and Kincaid Street intersection had a boot attached to a front wheel and a

neon-green warning sticker placed on the windshield.

Pam Guthrie, a Lane Transit District bus driver, said that recently, several people rode her bus because their cars were booted.

"I had one lady come running up and tell me, 'My car's been booted, and I have to be downtown before City Hall closes in 10 minutes, or they'll tow my car,'" Guthrie said. "I had to tell her, 'Sorry, you're not going to make it by then.'"

Guthrie said that she has noticed significantly more instances of bootings in the last two weeks than usual.

Any increase in the number of bootings is coincidental, however, according to Kay Kronholm, the parking enforcement program director for the City of Eugene.

"There is no crackdown," she said. "There's the potential for [bootings] on a daily basis. Sometimes [vehicles with outstanding parking tickets] are everywhere, and sometimes you couldn't find one if you worked all day."

The recent number of bootings may be due to the discretion given to parking attendants, Kronholm said. The first duty of an attendant is to check the assigned patrol route for illegally parked vehicles. If they finish a route early, however, attendants are encouraged to run a background check for each car along the route, searching for outstanding tickets, Kronholm said.

When ticketing a vehicle or performing a background check, an attendant enters the vehicle's license number in a hand-held computer. If

the vehicle has more than \$30 worth of outstanding tickets, a beep will alert the attendant the vehicle has outstanding tickets.

If the attendant confirms any outstanding tickets, the vehicle is booted.

To have a boot removed, all outstanding tickets — along with a \$40 boot removal fee — must be paid within 24 hours.

Last fiscal year Eugene parking enforcement booted 1,969 vehicles, said Charlene Mauch, operations manager for Eugene Municipal Court.

The city's parking enforcement maintains three patrol routes around campus and four downtown. They do not patrol the University lots, however. Those lots are patrolled by the Department of Public Safety.

DPS and the city use similar parking enforcement systems. If a vehicle is ticketed, its license number is entered into a hand-held computer, which will alert a DPS officer if the vehicle has outstanding parking tickets. Like the city, DPS officers are required to double-check before booting a car, according to Rand Stamm, the University's parking and transportation manager.

But unlike the city, DPS usually doesn't boot vehicles until they have five or more outstanding parking tickets.

Also unlike the city, DPS officers do not generally run checks on legally parked cars.

"Basically, we would only boot them if they're in violation," Stamm said.

STUDENT ADVISORS WANTED

Need committed and creative student volunteers to advise the University Health Center regarding programs, services, finances, and health insurance.

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Routine meetings are scheduled at 3 p.m. Fridays, allowing members to plan their class schedules accordingly.

Applications can be picked up at the University Student Health Center front desk.

Completed applications should be submitted to the University Health Center Director's office by Friday, April 27.

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