

# City Council votes to extend Broadway Mall ordinances

■ The regulations, which prohibit activities such as sleeping and loitering on the mall, will apply until July

By Sue Ryan  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene City Council debated for close to an hour Monday night before it voted to extend two sunset ordinances for the Broadway Mall in downtown Eugene for 90 more days.

The ordinances, which would have expired April 30, prohibit loitering on the mall between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. and also allow police to exclude individuals who commit crimes on the mall from the area for up to 60 days. The regulations affect the area between Willamette and Olive streets. Police staff had recommended the ordinances become permanent, a suggestion with which members of the business community agreed during the public comments period preceding the vote.

"This tool — mall exclusion ordinance — gives police a tool to exclude people; it's been effective," said Russ Brink, the president of Downtown Eugene, Inc.

Since the ordinances went into effect in 1998, police have issued 698 citations for exclusions.

"It's an endless cycle that [the violators] get tired of," said patrol officer Julie Smith.

Council members raised multiple issues about the ordinances. Councilor David Kelly recommended amending the ordinances to include show-cause wording. The amendment would require a judge to decide whether a person who is issued a citation would be excluded from the mall. The council voted against the suggestion.

"I'm concerned with the issue of due process. There is a clear separation between the actions of police and the laws of the judiciary," Kelly said.

The ordinances will now expire in July, but the council will re-examine the issues before including the possibility of increasing the size of the zone.

Some of the acts prohibited on the mall include climbing trees or structures, lying down, sleeping (except for children under age 6), riding a bicycle and riding or using a skateboard or roller skates.

In other business, the City Council approved an exemption to extend hours for Alton Baker Park for the 20-30 Club of Eugene to hold a Fourth of July fundraiser.

Spokesman Mike Clark said, "It's an event we've held for 52 years in Eugene and gives the club a chance

## Broadway Mall Ordinances

Police officers can hand out citations for exclusion from the downtown mall to any person who commits offenses defined in Eugene City Code Chapter 4.

### Prohibited acts include:

**Interfering with an authorized activity**

**Bringing or allowing any uncaged animal onto the mall (except for aide animals)**

**Lying down (except in an emergency or on grassy areas)**

**Conducting an activity with four or more people which might attract an assembly of more than 25 people**

to raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 to give to children's charities."

The club held the event at the Lane County Fairgrounds last year. It said in its request that returning to the fairgrounds would be cost-prohibitive because of a large deposit that would wipe out any profit it would make from the event.

Councilor Scott Meisner opposed the motion, saying he had a problem with the council supporting an event that would sell alcohol at a beer garden.

# Students address State Board with business policy concerns

■ A group of students protested the policy, saying its vague language may harm future student activism efforts

By Beata Mostafavi  
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the State Board of Higher Education passed a policy governing business agreements last February, the University slashed its ties with the Worker Rights Consortium, and students across the state began a furious fight against the change.

In the months since the board's decision, University students and students from other public universities have been preparing themselves for a fight against the policy, which they say is too vague and could limit the effects of student activism. On Friday, about 15 students from Oregon University System schools finally had the chance to bring their case before the board.

Some students presented their concerns about the "business practice policy" to the board during its meeting at Western Oregon University Friday, in the hopes that it would reconsider adopting the policy. And while the board met, others rallied against the policy, which is set to be enforced by Dec. 31, in an attempt to educate students about its potential ramifications.

Much of the controversy surrounds the policy's wording, which says that the seven OUS institutions cannot "adopt limits" on business agreements unless based on the "ability to perform, evidence of illegal activities" or other criteria. This prevents universities from being members of labor monitoring groups such as the WRC and Fair Labor Association. It may also conflict with parts of the University's own code of conduct.

Although some board members said the policy aims to ensure all

OUS schools conduct business in a straightforward and politically impartial manner, some students argued that the policy is too vague and could impose harmful restrictions.

For example, a company's failure to follow human rights standards could no longer be reason to refuse business with it, which would numb many student activism efforts, some students have said.

Tim Young, an OUS board member and a University student, was the lone "no" vote in the decision to pass the policy in February. He said the biggest problem with the rule is broad language that could cause confusion in the future. Who decides what "evidence" is appropriate, and whether business practices are deemed legal on a national, international or statewide level are just a few unanswered questions about the policy, he said.

"How the policy will be interpreted is where the battle is now," Young said.

Many students also worry that the policy will cripple their power to initiate change through boycotts and protests. Christina Bondurant, a facilitator for the sociology club at WOU, said the school is boycotting NORPAC because many students disagree with its treatment of farmworkers. She said the policy could take away her school's right to conduct such a boycott.

"This basically says that we can't question any business practices," Bondurant said.

She added that many students aren't aware of the policy, which is why concerned students held the rally Friday.

Young said he believes the policy was passed in direct response to the WRC issue and was a way for the OUS to avoid making a decision on the labor issue.

But Shawn Hempel, a board member and Oregon Institute of Technology student, said there is al-

ready a state policy supporting that of the OUS. He said that although the creation of the policy may have been triggered by the WRC issue, it mostly just reinstates current policies already in place on the state level.

"The [WRC membership] just brought the issue to public awareness," he said.

Although Hempel voted in favor of the policy, he said that he agrees with arguments on both sides of the issue. The policy doesn't allow universities to consider "moral" and "ethical" reasons when making business agreements, Hempel said, which he believes is a problem. But, he said, it does make universities impartial in their business agreements.

"It keeps out political preference ... that was the original intent," he said. "But I'm not going to say the policy is good just the way it is."

Bondurant said that although students have had the chance to speak out to the board, it is now up to the board to decide whether to consider their concerns and change its decision. "I feel like they now know it's a concern of students," she said. "It's important for them to know we have a problem with this."

Bondurant added that the policy has prompted the University and other schools, including Portland State and Willamette universities, to join the Oregon Student Action Network (OSAN) — a coalition intended to act as a support system when issues similar to the business policy arise in the future.

Although it is unlikely the vote will be overturned, Young said, many board members still want to hear the student voice and perspective.

"All in all the students who spoke to the board were very professional and well received," he said. "Some comments I heard from the board were very encouraging ... the board is committed to continuing this debate."

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