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Profs seek limits on sports costs

Concerned about the growing cost of sports, Pacific-10 Conference professors are circulating a resolution, developed by University Senate President James Earl, that calls for university leaders to limit the growth of athletic spending.

The faculty senates at the University of California at Berkeley and Arizona State University have approved versions of the resolution. A vote of the University of Oregon's University Senate will come Wednesday, and the remaining Pac-10 faculties are expected to consider the issue before the end of the school year.

"I want the professors of America to speak up and say there's a problem here in American education that has to be addressed, and it's up to the presidents to do it," Earl said.

Earl, president of the University senate, said college sports have become such a huge business empire that many universities have been unable to control them. He said escalating spending by athletic departments threatens the core academic mission of colleges.

At the University, the athletic department runs a deficit of about $2 million a year, a shortfall that is made up from the University's general fund.

Earl said he hopes that getting all of the Pac-10 academic senates behind the resolution will provide some cover for university presidents, who are under pressure from alumni and fans to expand sports programs in spite of cost concerns and faculty objections.

It is hoped that other conferences will follow the Pac-10's lead.

At ASU, faculty members voted 73-0 to approve the resolution. Professor Doug Johnson, president of the ASU Academic Senate, said while the athletic department at Arizona State isn't allowed to run a deficit, faculty remain concerned about spiraling spending.

Some university presidents share those concerns. University President Dave Frohnmayer, the Pac-10's representative to the National Collegiate Athletics Association, said it's time for universities to confront the issue.

"I think we obviously have to do what we can to see that spending is in line," Frohnmayer said. "We don't want to get in a situation where we're looking at escalating deficits."

But he said efforts to control sports spending will have to address potential conflicts with antitrust laws, which limit what universities can do as a group to restrict salaries or set spending caps.

The NCAA recently lost an antitrust lawsuit over coaches' salaries that could cost the association tens of millions of dollars.

Earl doubts the resolution will stop projects already in progress, such as the $80 million expansion of Autzen Stadium. He also knows that his resolution might not be a hit with sports fans.

"I think a lot of people out there tend to think of the University as a sports franchise because athletics is our primary tool for public relations," Earl said. "What the fans have a hard time remembering is that athletics has nothing to do with education. It's a business we've gotten into on the side, and it's not supporting the educational mission."

The Associated Press

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Wednesday, May 9 *Tourism and Culture*
12:00-1:30 p.m. Film "Tourism in Oregon"
4:00-5:30 p.m. Panel: Tourism and Culture

Thursday, May 10 *Tourism and Environment*
12:00-1:30 p.m. Film "A good woman of Bangkok"
4:00-5:30 p.m. Panel: Tourism and Environment
5:30-5:45 p.m. Closing Remarks
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Schedule of Events

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Tuesday, May 8	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Personal Visits	EMU, Umpqua Room
	7-9 p.m.	Informal Recruitment Event	ΣK House, 851 E. 15th Ave.
Wednesday, May 9	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Personal Visits	EMU, Umpqua Room
	7-9 p.m.	Preference Event	ΣK House, 851 E. 15th Ave.
Thursday, May 10	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Bid Distribution	EMU, Owyhee Room
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