

Debate gets students involved

■ The goal of the debating political parties was not winning, but sparking political interest in the community

By Tara Struyk
for the Emerald

The Campus Democrats and Republicans met Tuesday night to fiercely debate their political views regarding several current issues, but despite their divergent beliefs, the debate was designed by both parties with a similar goal in mind.

"We hope the debate makes students more politically aware of issues of the government," Campus Republicans chairman Stan Pulliam said. "We would like to create a more politically educated student body."

The 8 p.m. meeting in the EMU Fir Room thoroughly covered five topics: missile defense, education, incidental fees, dealing with recession and President Bush's energy plan.

Jed McGuire, treasurer for the College Democrats, said his group

has been doing research for the past two weeks and was prepared to help students become more informed about both sides of the issues.

The first topic — and one of the more thoroughly debated — concerned student incidental fees, an issue which has been prominent on campus this year.

McGuire introduced the Democrats' position on student incidental fees, arguing that the current distribution of student fees to various groups on campus helps to foster diversity of opinion and ultimately contributes to students' educations. He also mentioned other perks of the student incidental fees, such as free bus service and cheaper child care for student mothers on campus.

"The community gains from having more diverse opinions on campus," McGuire said.

Pulliam expressed the Republicans' concern that many students do not agree with the beliefs of the organizations that receive student funds and suggested that students

be given more control over how their money is distributed.

"What we need is incidental fee reform," he said.

Throughout the debate, the audience of about 30 people remained active, asking questions of both parties and challenging them on their views, particularly on the topic of a missile defense system, which College Democrat member Tim Johnson described as expensive and ineffective. The Republican group defended the idea, depicting it as a deterrent which can protect the country from enemies' missiles.

So who won and who lost?

According to both groups, the debate itself was not the point. Getting students involved in political issues that affect them is important, McGuire said, not winning and losing.

"I guess you could win something," he said, "because you can win a presidential debate."

"It isn't about debating."

Tara Struyk is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Women in transition find support

■ A weekly meeting sponsored by the Women's Center offers a chance for nontraditional students to make connections

By Anna Seeley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Adrienne Wanhof-Gustafson returned to school in September to obtain a law degree after graduating from Southern Oregon University two years ago. Only this time, she is returning with a three year-old daughter to care for.

Wanhof-Gustafson said she doesn't get extra money for being a student parent, and she finds that having to pay for childcare while attending classes is frustrating.

"Spending the extra \$500 is really stretching me thin," she said.

Students like Wanhof-Gustafson have to face college life with family responsibilities in addition to homework and midterms.

To provide support and informa-

tion for nontraditional students, the ASUO Women's Center now offers a weekly meeting, "Women in Transition." It is also a way for returning students, international students, older students and student parents to make friends and connections with people with similar problems and circumstances.

"Women in transition are women who are in transition between a prior life and a new life," Women in Transition Coordinator Sayaka Mimura said. "I think many women are in this circumstance."

Wanhof-Gustafson said she doesn't know many people on campus and hopes to meet other nontraditional students at the meetings.

"Taking a lot of classes with 19-year-olds makes me feel old," she said.

Jamuna Golden, office assistant at the Women's Center, said the meetings could potentially offer more than just support to nontraditional students. It also gives them a chance to talk about issues, she said, and

possibly explore solutions to some of their problems.

The meetings are open to everyone, including men, Mimura said. She added that meetings will start again next term, although the day and time have yet to be determined.

Mimura said the meetings will provide a forum for people to share their stories with others and learn about the resources available on campus for nontraditional students.

"The Women's Center can provide information based on nontraditional students' needs and interests," Mimura said. "To see women who are in the same circumstances is a great opportunity for nontraditional students. They can make friends and connections."

For more information, students can call Sayaka Mimura at the Women's Center at 346-4095.

Anna Seeley is a student activities reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at annaseeley@dailymerald.com.

Budget cuts

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be used for other OUS programs.

However, OUS officials told board members Tuesday that all but \$1.8 million had already been spent at the Cascades campus. Imeson then drafted a compromise.

Watari said questions about the Cascades campus were not raised in time for the board to take any meaningful action. However, Tuesday's vote should convince the state that the board has not abandoned the Cascades campus, she said.

The proposal's 2 percent budget cut would equal a net loss of \$16.7 million dollars to OUS, including \$1.8 million at the University of Oregon. The 10 percent cut would exceed \$80.9 million for the state system and \$12.4 million for the University.

Officials noted that while proposed cuts at the University were larger than expected, they won't break the bank.

"The net change is a little more cost to us, but not a huge amount," University Provost John Moseley said. "I can generally support this."

Imeson's proposal also directs Cox to oversee the startup of the Bend campus, to "ensure that administrative overhead does not exceed the need on the ground."


Board member Tim Young felt

this addition was important to guarantee that the state does not expand the new campus while smaller universities lose state funds.

"It sends the appropriate message of 'proceed with caution,'"

Young said. "We don't want to have a party and nobody show up."

John Liebhardt is the higher education editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at johnliebhardt@dailymerald.com.

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