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Frohnmayer holds open forum ■ The president talks about overcrowding, the financial aid drug rule, tuition and diversity

By Robin Weber

At Wednesday's coffee hour in the Multicultural Center, University President Dave Frohnmayer offered a challenge to more than 20 students concerned with campus issues.

"What's the best way for administration to convey issues, facts and concerns to students of color?" he asked students.

Frohnmayer was joined by Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Anne Leavitt and Executive Assistant President David Hubin in addressing student concerns in a relaxed atmosphere. This was the second chat hosted by ASUO this year.

"We want people to know who (Frohnmayer) is. There are students who haven't met him in the past but are interested in his opinions," said ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn, who served as the discussion facilitator. "We want to give them a chance to get to know him better."

The question-and-answer ses-

sion included representatives from ASUO, the Multicultural Center, the Black Student Union and other student organizations.

Frohnmayer was challenged by the students to closer examine the University's expanding enrollment, as well as the repercussions of this year's projected budget cuts.

"We want to give students the best education we can in light of the budget cuts," he said, adding that the University is considering extending the times of day classes will be offered and building more classrooms.

Students from the Oregon Students of Color Coalition mentioned the recent controversy about the Higher Education Act drug provision, requesting Frohnmayer sign his support for repeal of the act. While Frohnmayer did not sign on, he did agree to review the statement.

Students asked Frohnmayer about the possibility of a tuition increase in the 2002-2003 school term and how that may hinder low-income students and students of color from attending the University.

'It tuition goes up, (financial aid) will go up," Frohnmayer said.

Leavitt said the University is continually making outreach

efforts. "We set goals to specifically attract a higher number of students and target them to become familiar with our campus," she said.

Black Student Union co-director Haben Woldu then asked what the University is doing to retain students of color and maintain a low dropout rate. Frohnmayer said the number of ethnic faculty on campus has increased in the past five years and the University has conducted exit interviews in an effort to retain current employees for the benefit of students of all nationalities.

"If we have a more robust faculty of color," he said, "we'll attract more students of color."

Regarding students already on campus, there were concerns about whether the dorms were a target for public safety patrolling since the fine for minors possessing alcohol increased.

Frohnmayer said there is no specific targeting. The only concern, he said, is public safety.

Frohnmayer also addressed the controversy around University policy on American Sign Language, saying only that the policy is not yet concrete.

E-mail reporter Robin Weber at robinweber@dailyemerald.com.

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Q: What specific campus-oriented initiatives will you champion?

A: We plan to act as a gateway for students to have their voices heard, and not only on campus but at a municipal, state and national level. As for specific initiatives, I want better sports ticketing. I can't promise anything, but I promise I will fight for it. I definitely don't think we need to be standing in line and missing our classes. My idea to solve this problem is based on a first-come, first-served basis tied in with some type of lottery. I would also like to do a broadcast of the game in Mac Court for those students who did not get tickets. For the ASUO staff, I plan to split the Greek advocate to a male and a female and the multicultural advocate into a male and a female.

Q: How would you define diversity? And how do you plan on bringing together the diverse voices on campus?

A: We have all lived very diverse lives on this campus. I think that we need to build more social awareness for culture. Basically, I would like to see more promotion of culture for everyone and for everyone to take part. I definitely think people need to go out and be their own person. As far as promoting diversity, we should let people be who they want to be.

Q: If two groups were at odds with each other, how would you resolve that conflict?

A: I think that politics equal compromise. That is the only reason we even have a government. I think that logic and understanding is the only way to ever reach a good agreement. I would just sit down and try to mediate as much as possible. If one side is illogical, I would probably side with the logical case. I would weigh the circumstances.

Q: If there was one thing you could change about the University instantly, what would it be?

A: I think that the best education is achieved in the discussion section. However, graduate teaching fellows lack the ability to teach. I would like to see the professors doing more discussions because I feel they are the place where questions get answered.

Q: How would you do things differently than the current ASUO Executive?

A: I think that I need to take what they have already done and keep progressing. Progressive nature is the way to be - moving forward always - and I just need to keep trying to make this a better community for our students.





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CODAC (Center on Diversity and Community) Student Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 10, 2002 Time: 7:00 p.m. Where: EMU, Rogue Room

Issues to be discussed: · Elect Student Representatives Introduction to CODAC · Student Input

Please come if you are interested in diversity issues around campus!!

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