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Strike

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accept the employers' proposal or to strike.

The representative for the employers, Melinda Merrill, said she does not know what the outcome is likely to be.

"It's an unknown at this point," she said.

No agreements have been made so far, and a strike is likely, according to employee representatives. The main issues in the conflict arise from disagreements about health care benefits, pensions and wage increases.

The employers proposed a two-tier

plan with different benefits for current and future employees. The union believes this plan is not fair to new employees because they would never be able to achieve the same level of benefits as current employees.

Employers are asking all union members to pay a portion of their health care, but new employees would have to wait a longer period of time to qualify for benefits.

According to the employers' proposal, new employees would not be able to get pension benefits until the age of 21. Currently, there is no age limit.

Employers also want to lengthen the time it takes union members to get a wage increase and give members lump-

sum payments that would be five times less for full-time employees than the hourly raise they are requesting.

"Union members will not sell out the future generation," Sawyer said.

Union members differ on whether to strike, but most support it.

East 18th Avenue Safeway deli worker and union member Paula Hunt said the possible strike and current situation in negotiations is a result of the employers' desires.

"It's massive corporate greed," she said.

The UFCW 555 represents about 1,100 members in the Eugene area.

Roman Gokhman is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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Logo

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October ASUO Programs Council meeting, where ASUO officials told program representatives they would have to use the 'O' logo by Jan. 1 to place purchase orders for new publication materials. The announcement resulted in protests from student

groups and contract nonprofits, who said the policy would violate free speech rights and possibly create a headache for the University, as well.

University officials said they came up with the original policy in order to let student groups align themselves officially with the University in their on-campus and off-campus publications.

Battson said student groups will continue to be encouraged to use the

new logo. Officials are "working with groups to try and get them to think of themselves as responsible and accountable student groups at the University," he said.

"It's about giving students their choice."

Contact the senior news reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com. News editor Brook Reinhard also contributed to this report.

Council

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was also signed by Ward 8 Councilor Nancy Nathanson and Ward 4 Councilor Gary Rayor—omits a paragraph stating a need to spend tax dollars on schools, health care and housing instead of military action.

Councilor David Kelly, who represents Ward 3 and the University area, said the Council is making the statement because of the potential effect on Eugene.

"A war like this would have tremendous local impact," he said.

Kelly acknowledged that a single letter from the council will probably have a negligible effect on U.S. foreign policy. When other cities around the country make a similar statement,

however, the impact can become much greater, he added.

"It's the cumulative effect rather than the individual effect," he said.

A loose coalition of citizens, including a number of University students and faculty members, petitioned the council at the Nov. 12 meeting to pass a resolution opposing war.

Levi Strom, a senior majoring in sociology and political science, was one of the students at the meeting. Strom, co-founder of Students for Peace, said it is important for the council to speak on behalf of people in the community.

"By not taking an action, they are essentially giving tacit support for the war," he said.

Strom said the council's action would mirror positions taken by other cities, and the combined effect will be significant.

"Those things start to add up," he said.

At the meeting, the council weighed the option of passing a resolution, drafting a letter, or both. The

council opted for a letter because it could be undertaken immediately, whereas a resolution wouldn't be passed until later in the month.

Ward 2 Councilor Betty Taylor said she would still like to see more.

"What I want is a resolution because I think that's a stronger expression of our opinion," she said.


Nathanson, however, opposed the idea of a resolution. Nathanson said the letter is appropriate because it represents the opinions of individual council members, whereas a resolution makes the statement that the entire city is unified in its opinion.

"I don't believe it's appropriate for cities to adopt resolutions in general," she said.

Mayor Jim Torrey expressed similar sentiments at the Nov. 12 council meeting. Torrey was out of town Wednesday, and it wasn't known whether he intended to sign the letter.

Contact the senior news reporter at kenpaulman@dailyemerald.com.

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