Task force supports keeping conduct code

Officials and students agree the Student Conduct Code should not include riots. but just on-campus activities

Danielle Gillespie

Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

University officials and students agree that changing the Student Conduct Code to include off-campus activities may not be the right answer for preventing future riots, nor is it the proper punishment.

In a meeting held Thursday, a task force composed of community and University officials met to discuss revising the Student Conduct Code to include riotous activities, with the ultimate result a resounding 'no.'

After meeting for two hours, the group of about 20 individuals concluded any change to the conduct code wouldn't prevent riotous activity from occurring in the future.

Associate Vice President for Institutional Affairs Jan Oliver said the University has discussed adding off-campus riotous activities to the conduct code, but no decision has been made.

"I think if we made the change, in terms of results, I don't see it as a solution," she said.

ASUO Outreach Coordinator Jesse Harding said there are other ways to reach students other than threatening to expel them from school. He said he thinks the riots were an alcohol-fueled event, and it would be more effective to educate students about alcohol consumption through programming.

Student Affairs Vice President and Dean of Students Anne Leavitt said she does not think the Student Conduct Code should be used as a preventative measure.

"It's a catch-and-release program that may not change social behavior," she said. "It's just not preventative - it occurs after the incident."

The University first developed the Student Conduct Code to deal with academic dishonesty in the 1960s and currently, the code only applies to oncampus activity, Director of Student

Judicial Affairs Chris Loschiavo said. "The purpose of the conduct code

is to create an environment that is conducive to learning," he said.

Loschiavo said he is unsure about applying off-campus activity to the conduct code because it is not meant to enforce laws. In fact, many of its regulations, such as academic dishonesty, are not a violation of any federal or state law, he said.

Loschiavo said he is not sure what the proper punishment should be for riotous behavior because there are different degrees of participation concerning riots.

Suspension and expulsion only occur when a student is perceived as a safety risk or if he or she has

cheated academically more than once, Loschiavo said.

He said he is unsure if adding riotous activity to the list will solve the problem.

"Just because we suspend a student, that doesn't mean they're leaving the community," he said.

Loschiavo added that it would be difficult for the University to extend its jurisdiction beyond campus because it doesn't have easy access to crime reports from the Eugene Police Department, as it does from the Department of Public Safety.

Contact the reporter at daniellegillespie@dailyemerald.com.

Strike

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employees will pay a portion but it will be covered by cash bonuses from the employers. New employees will have to wait a month to qualify for benefits.

The employers' request of an

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age limit of 21 to receive pension benefits was dropped.

"Journeyman" status, currently a wage increase after 5,200 hours of work, will be increased to 7,800 hours for new employees. The employers had proposed a higher number of hours.

"It's better than 12,000 (hours)," Clay said.

Finally, the union requested an immediate 50-cent wage increase for all members, and employers met them halfway. A 25-cent increase will take effect today, and another will be implemented in November 2004. Employers will also give union members lumpsum bonuses that will cover the members' portion of health care premiums.

Many union members were surprised to hear the changes in the proposal from the employers.

"(The deal) was as fair as it was going to get," West 11th Avenue Safeway employee and union member Catherine Unruh said.

Some members still are not satisfied with the new proposal.

East 18th Avenue Safeway employee Doug Poxell said he voted against the deal.

Once (the employers) start taking benefits away, it never ends," Poxell said. "I don't like the idea of giving away anything."

A strike in Eugene would have led to others in surrounding counties and would have had an impact nationally, Clay said.

"Whatever happens in Eugene sets the pattern," he said.

The latest deal was made after the national Joint Labor Management committee stepped in and asked to mediate the conflict Wednesday. The two parties finished negotiations at 5 a.m. Sunday.

Sawyer said much of the credit for reaching the agreement is due to JLM

"They had the wisdom and insight to get involved," Sawyer

Local 555 spokesman Rick Sawyer said that if the union voted to strike, arrangements had been made to begin at about 10 p.m., after all votes were counted.

Roman Gokhman is a freelance writer





Photos by Mark McCambridge Emerald

Gary McLeod and Barbara Gresser count ballots at the Doubletree Hotel in Springfield after the evening session of labor negotiations.





