

## Pilliod

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the chairwoman, Portland State University member and likely Pilliod-supporter Miriam Gonzales would not clearly state her opinion. Western Oregon University representative Gregg Magnus said it was too early in the process to take a firm stance on the issue. In contrast, Oregon Institute of Technology representative Ben Haines said while he didn't know enough about the issue to take an immediate position, he'd talked to several board members who were seeking Pilliod's removal from the chair.

Eastern Oregon University representative Mike Freese said several members were considering suspending OSA bylaws and taking a vote on the recall at Saturday's meeting instead of waiting a month. He added that he'd also heard talk of impeaching Pilliod, which would remove her entirely from the OSA.

Several issues have been

brought up by Burns and bandied about by OSA members. First, at a Democratic rally in October at the University, Pilliod clearly identified herself as ASUO president before the crowd of several thousand University students and community members.

"As far as Rachel as a person, I really like her, but I'm not sure if that rally was a good idea in her position," Freese said.

Article I of the OSA bylaws states that the organization cannot "participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office." Board members may interpret Pilliod's appearance at the October rally as taking part in a political campaign, even though she has participated in get-out-the-vote events for both Republicans and Democrats throughout the year.

Secondly, Pilliod and ASUO State Affairs Director Adam Petkun were both present at a December OSA hiring committee meeting, in spite of rules which stipulate that

only one member from each school can make up the hiring committee. However, Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws allows the chair to act as a non-voting member of any OSA committee except the Executive Committee. Pilliod left the meeting early and therefore didn't vote.

Finally, Burns said Pilliod changed the location and date of an OSA board meeting without giving 10 days notice, which stopped several members from attending and is a violation of Article V, Section B of the bylaws.

"It was a simple mistake, but her intentions were good," McNeill said.

Burns said she can't stand by and let Pilliod break any more rules.

"There's little things that have just added up. I think Rachel is an incredible woman, but I'm not there to be her friend — I'm here to be her colleague."

Contact the news editor at [brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com](mailto:brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com).

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## Meeting

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University law Professor Barbara Aldave, who will speak at the event, said that under the 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act, state agencies can terminate parental rights of an inmate and put the child up for adoption if the child has been in foster care for more than 15 months.

Aldave has spent time working to assist mothers in such situations and helped start Project Link-Up, a program to develop educational resources that will help incarcerated mothers learn how to legally fight for the custody of their children.

"The ultimate goal of Project Link-Up is to have law students work directly with women prisoners to inform them of their rights and help them gain knowledge of the law and of custody hearings," Aldave said.

Carole Pope, another speaker at

the symposium and founder of Our New Beginnings, a nonprofit organization that helps women released from prison adjust to their new lives, said most inmate moms are unaware of child custody and adoption laws.

"For incarcerated women, knowledge is power. So if we can give them information on how to participate in the legal process and custody hearings, we can help them be the kind of moms they need to be," Pope said.

Pope has been fighting for the rights of incarcerated women since her release from prison more than 23 years ago. She is currently working with professors and students at the University Law Center as a Project Link-Up leader.

"Nobody has ever given these women a break or the support they need," Pope said. "A lot of people think these women are throw-aways, but I understand them."

Joan Palmateer, superintendent of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, supports Project Link-Up

**"The ultimate goal of Project Link-Up is to have law students work directly with women prisoners to inform them of their rights and help them gain knowledge of the law."**

*Barbara Aldave  
law professor*

and thinks that breaking up families may increase the cycle of crime in Oregon communities.

"We have learned that criminality is a generational issue," Palmateer said. "It is no longer okay to turn inmates into better citizens — we have to send them out to be better parents, otherwise the criminality continues."

Andrew Black is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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