

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Oregon voters will likely face tax measure

Petitioners submitted almost three times the necessary number of signatures to put a Legislature-approved tax increase to a vote

By A. Sho Ikeda  
Senior News Reporter

Opponents of the Oregon Legislature's \$800 million income tax surcharge submitted more than 147,000 signatures to election officials on Tuesday — almost three times the number of signatures necessary to put the tax increase to a vote in a February special election.

Petitioners needed 50,420 valid signatures to place House Bill 2152 — legislation authorizing the tax surcharge that lawmakers passed last summer to balance the budget — on the ballot. Election officials have until Dec. 9 to determine whether the petitioners have the required 50,420 signatures. Both supporters of the tax increase and opponents agreed that petitioners had probably collected the necessary number of signatures.

If enough valid signatures are recognized, HB 2152 would be put up for a vote in a Feb. 3 special election. A "yes" vote would uphold the tax increase, and a "no" vote would reject it.

If the tax measure passes, a three-year income tax surcharge

Turn to **REFERENDUM**, page 4

## Professor granted research award of \$2.4 million

The government grant will fund William Roberts' cell research that focuses on the nervous system

By Caron Alarab  
News Reporter

University Biology Professor William Roberts has received a \$2.4 million grant to perform research on how human cells communicate chemically.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded the five-year grant to fund neurobiology research that focuses on synaptic transmission in the nervous system, which is the basis for how the brain works.

Roberts, who is also the director of the University Institute of Neuroscience, submitted the grant proposal in February and waited for more than eight months to hear that it "survived" the competitive review process.

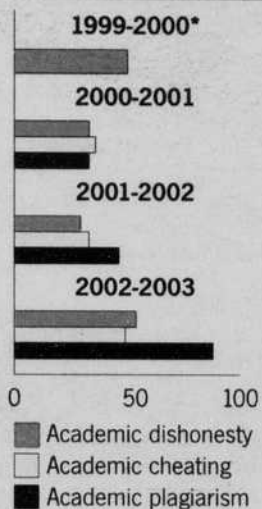
"This is a very exciting time for biology, with rapid progress being made at all levels from molecules to whole ecosystems, from evolutionary origins to human behavior," Roberts said in an e-mail.

Roberts, who has been conducting cell research at the University for 13 years, said the study is aimed at gaining a better understanding about how people hear and see, adding that it could have implications for treating or preventing cell trauma. Through studies of how cells process calcium signals, encode minute time delays between the two ears and pinpoint the origin of a sound, Roberts said he hopes to better understand the human nervous system.

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## WHY STUDENTS CHEAT

### STUDENT VIOLATIONS



\* Data for academic cheating and academic plagiarism violations were not available for the 1999-2000 year.

SOURCE: University Office of Judicial Affairs

Many equate cheating with laziness, but studies show most cheat because of high academic pressure and desperate circumstances

The whys of cheating are plentiful — there are almost as many reasons for cheating as there are students who do it. And according to national statistics, there are a lot of students doing it.

In 1999, Donald McCabe of Rutgers University, one of the nation's leading researchers on academic integrity, directed a national survey of 2,100 students on 21 different college campuses to determine the extent of cheating. More than 75 percent of student respondents admitted to cheating in some form.

According to Director of Student Judicial Affairs Chris Loschiavo, the University has not participated in any of the recent studies on academic integrity, but it did engage in one of McCabe's earlier studies in 1992 and 1993. Loschiavo said the past survey found that about 80 percent of students at the University admitted to cheating.

However, the number of students who own up to cheating in surveys is in sharp contrast with the number of academic dishonesty cases that are processed through the Office of Judicial Affairs.

From 2002 to 2003, there were 202 academic dishonesty cases at the University, while enrollment totaled 18,421. That means 1.1 percent of the student population was caught cheating.

Regardless of how many students cheat and get away with it, most students know cheating is a cardinal sin in the academic community. So what factors motivate students to do something they know is wrong?

Teaching Effectiveness Program Director Georgeanne Cooper said students may cheat for a variety of reasons.

"Some do it just to see if they can get away with it, some do it because they feel pressure to do well, maybe even people cheat to gain some illusion of self-worth or avoid the shame of failure," Cooper said.

Cooper added that she has dealt with academic dishonesty

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### PART 1 OF 5

- Today:** Why students cheat
- Tuesday:** Ways students cheat
- Wednesday:** Repercussions of cheating
- Thursday:** Ways to stop cheating
- Friday:** Profile of a cheater

### ONLINE POLL

Each week, the Emerald publishes the results of the previous week's poll and the coming week's poll question on Page 2. Visit <http://www.dailyemerald.com> to vote.

**This week:** Do you think cheating is a serious problem?

**Choices:** Yes, I work hard for my grades and others should have to do the same; Yes, cheating shows a lack of integrity; No, it doesn't matter if students cheat; No, students should do whatever it takes to get a good grade.

### WEATHER

LOW  
37



HIGH  
49

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A look at the methods students use to cheat

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