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Dean candidate speaks at UO

James Bean, a candidate for business school dean, spoke with the University community on Tuesday

By Jennifer Sudick
Freelance Editor

In an effort to be chosen as dean of the Charles H. Lundquist College of Business, James Bean, University of Michigan College of Engineering associate dean for academic affairs, presented his vision for the college to about 40 students, faculty and community members on Tuesday afternoon.

In a multimedia presentation at the Lillis Business Complex, Bean stressed the importance of issues such as business sustainability, technology and faculty diversification.

"Lillis screams sustainable business," he said. "We need to be considering more than just economics."

Bean, a former Homart (real estate) Development company employee, and Kenneth Evans, the associate dean of the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Business, are the finalists being considered for the position, which current Lundquist College of Business Dean Phil Romero will be vacating in June.

Bean said one of his goals for the position is to enhance community involvement in the college's activities.

"The best is when community collaborations lead to cutting-edge research," the former Oregon resident said. "The Lundquist College of Business should be seen as an indispensable part in the Oregon economy."

Bean said several of the challenges he would face as dean are learning about the different areas of business — such as finance, marketing and accounting — and expanding the faculty.

"Faculty need to have complimentary talents," he said. "I can never make as good a decision myself as I can with faculty bringing different perspectives."

Junior Josh Rose, one of the few students at Bean's presentation, said he liked what the candidate had to say.

"I think he had a good talk, and I like what he said about sustainability," Rose said.

College of Business Associate Dean Ray King shared similar sentiments, but said that no decisions have yet been made as to who the dean will be.

"I thought (the presentation) was first-rate and responsive," King said.

In addition to the presentation, Bean's six-day stay in Oregon included visits with University administrators, faculty and students. He said he is excited about the University's small environment as compared to the University of Michigan, which he said will give him increased interaction with students.

"I feel very positively about (the visit)," he said. "Faculty, staff and students need to feel they are part of something that is building. This is a great time to be at Oregon."

Contact the freelance editor at jennifersudick@dailyemerald.com.

ASUO

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has an "open-chair policy," which emphasizes that anyone can stop by and get involved in ASUO.

Creighton-Neiwert, a self-described "West Coast girl," grew up mostly in Eugene and around Oregon, but also spent summers on Southern California beaches and winters skiing at Mt. Bachelor.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University in 2001, Creighton-Neiwert, who ASUO Spokeswoman Taraneh Foster likened to a "human file cabinet," began graduate studies in Public Policy and Management. She said she works 50 to 60 hours a week at ASUO during the school year, in addition to her graduate studies.

"Budget season is probably not the best time to ask me how many hours a week I work," Creighton-Neiwert said. "I get here before the sun comes up and I don't get to go home until the sun goes down."

"I wish I could split myself up into 20,000 little pieces so each student could have a bit of my time," Creighton-Neiwert said. "It's frustrating at times to be in the office and not be able to give 100 percent devotion to every student that's in here."

Creighton-Neiwert ran into some controversy earlier this year when student senators expressed frustration at a typographical mistake made in last year's ASUO elections packet that cost them $5,400 in lost wages. Creighton-Neiwert's name was included in a resolution that sought to censure those responsible for the error, but as her official duties did not include the elections packet her name was dropped.

One student senator, however, felt that Creighton-Neiwert bore some responsibility for the mistake.

"She overlooks a lot of things, whether they're in her job description or not," Sen. Colin Andries said in early January. "She was definitely asked about the elections process."

The measure was later dropped. Student senators said at the time that they had made their point and a formal resolution was unnecessary.

Despite that minor bump in the road, students and co-workers praised Creighton-Neiwert's style and dedication.

"I feel like I can ask her a question any time of the day," ASUO Administrative Assistant Shawn Rubino said. "She's by far the best boss I've ever had just as far as communication and how she treats us."

Andries said Creighton-Neiwert helped him adjust to working for the ASUO.

"Obviously, when you're new, you have a lot of questions and she always had no problem answering my questions," he said.

Creighton-Neiwert said she isn't sure whether she'll continue to work for the ASUO after she finishes her graduate studies.

"I always joke that I don't know what I want to do when I grow up," Creighton-Neiwert said.

Contact the campus/ federal politics reporter at chuckslothower@dailyemerald.com. Freelance reporter Moriah Balingit contributed to this report.

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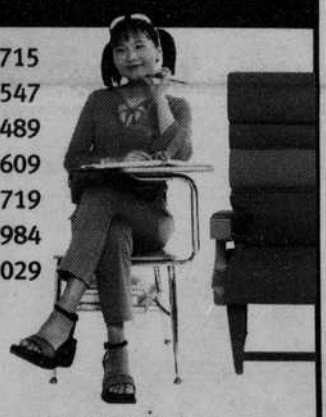

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