

# University Senate may petition PATRIOT Act revision

In April the Senate will also consider a reduction in group-credit requirements

By Chuck Slothower  
News Reporter

University faculty and staff expressed concerns about the USA PATRIOT Act at a panel discussion hosted by the Association of American University Professors on Wednesday.

The panel, which followed a meeting of the University Senate, headlined representatives from the University, the federal government and a prominent civil liberties organization.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Cardani defended the PATRIOT Act.

"What the PATRIOT Act does is modernize a lot of law-enforcement tools that have been used for years and years," Cardani said. "We are behind

the curve when it comes to catching the bad guys, and Sept. 11 taught us a lot about that."

Cardani spent much of his time dispelling myths about the PATRIOT Act, which he said has garnered criticism because of unrelated anti-terrorism measures, such as the detention of "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Ginny Stark, director of University International Student and Scholar Services, expressed concerns about the PATRIOT Act. She said its imposition of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, a database that enables the government to keep tabs on international students, has negatively affected the University Office of International Programs.

"Using SEVIS has changed what we do," Stark said. "We are very often called on to do the government's work and that is not a very

comfortable feeling."

Cardani said Hani Hanjour, who is believed to have piloted the plane that hit the Pentagon on Sept. 11, entered the United States on a visa to study English in California but dropped out of sight. SEVIS was constructed to prevent such a lapse from recurring.

Stark said she has heard of numerous problems encountered by foreign students at the University in recent years because of post-Sept. 11 security. She said a Canadian student was held up at the U.S.-Canadian border because of his physical appearance. Chinese students have experienced considerable visa delays and compulsory interviews with immigration officials have caused "anxiety" among foreign students, Stark said.

"There is a general perception that the U.S. is an inhospitable place," Stark said.

University Librarian Deborah Carver said the PATRIOT Act could have a chilling effect on intellectual freedom, although it has not yet been used to access records at University libraries.

Cardani, who is also an adjunct professor at the University School of Law, said the PATRIOT Act provides a set of tools necessary for the prevention of terrorist attacks.

"There are people out there who wish to do us great harm because we're Americans," Cardani said. "(Terrorism) has come to our shores. We have to do something about that."

American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon Executive Director David Fidanque decried the federal government's "dragnet approach" in deporting 14,000 immigrants for what he said were mostly minor visa violations.

"They have been engaged in an effort

to export potential terrorists with an extremely broad brush," Fidanque said. "The result has been a tremendous amount of fear. Most disturbingly, we are convinced that it has not made this country any safer."

The University Senate is slated to consider two motions at its April meeting. One would petition Oregon's congressional delegation to seek revisions to the PATRIOT Act, and the other would reduce the number of credits needed to fulfill the University's group-satisfying requirement from 16 to 15 credits.

The Senate also approved curriculum changes, including the redesignation of several course numbers and the elimination of the prerequisite called "instructor's consent."

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at [chuckslower@dailyemerald.com](mailto:chuckslower@dailyemerald.com).

## COUPLES

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rights that come with it.

Bourzac, who has been with his partner for seven-and-a-half years, said he wants to get the license soon to assure the couple has the same rights as others.

"We've already made our commitment to each other and everyone

knows that," he said. "It's the legal aspects of a sanctioned marriage that we're interested in."

He said medical insurance, for example, is a constant battle for the couple, and he is worried about their legal rights to each other's assets if something were to happen to either of them.

"It's just a pain in the ass straight couples don't have to go

through," he said.

Tiffany Rauch-Dickson, who has been with her partner for about eight-and-a-half years, said as far as she is concerned, she's already married. But now she said it's important to get an official marriage license to receive the same benefits granted to other married people.

"You get all these other things that people don't really think about, and for us to do that it's been a series of paperwork for every small little thing," she said. "It's very time consuming, (and) it's very costly."

For example, although the two hyphenate their last name, the process of legally changing a last name is so

difficult they have not done so.

"For us to change our name we have to go to court," she said.

Collins said he also is frustrated with the legalities of changing names.

"We've wanted to change our names, but it would cost \$160 for the both of us," he said, adding that changing names is more affordable when packaged with the marriage license.

He said it doesn't matter which form legal recognition comes in "as long as we are guaranteed the same rights and privileges and recognition."

Tiffany Rauch-Dickson said it is problematic when people tie religion to marriage. Although she said it was

important for her to have a traditional wedding ceremony in a church, marriage isn't always about religion.

"There are a lot of people who are not religious who get married every day," she said.

Jessie Rauch-Dickson said the bottom line is that she got married for love.

"We didn't get married to make a point or anything, we got married because we love each other and want to be together for the rest of our lives," she said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at [chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com](mailto:chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com).

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**EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION**

**Thursday**  
Listening session with Gregory Vincent, the University's vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, to hear what members of the University community have to say on issues of equity and diversity facing students of color, Gumwood Room, EMU, 9:30-11 a.m.  
Trotter Lecture featuring Clifford Madsen from

Florida State University entitled "A Future I Would Welcome," Beall Concert Hall, 1 p.m.  
Public Safety Advisory Group meeting, Board Room, EMU, 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Ninth Circuit Senior Judge Alfred "Ted" Goodwin, the highest-ranking judge to graduate from the University School of Law, discusses "The Role of Federal Courts in Protecting Civil Liberties," Room

175, Knight Law Center, 7 p.m.  
Visiting artist lecture, Ryota Kuwakubo, a Japanese product designer, discusses his recent work with electronics, Room 182, Lillis, 7 p.m.  
Chamber Music Series concert, Beall Concert Hall, 8 p.m.

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