

NEWS BRIEF

EPD, City Councilors meet to discuss complaint registration process

Members of the Eugene City Council and Eugene Police Department held the first forum of its kind Wednesday in the EMU to discuss the EPD complaint registration process.

"There have been ongoing complaints about the process of registering grievances for a long time," Eugene City Councilor Bonny Bettman, who represents Ward 1, said. "The new police chief ... thought that it was necessary to make an effort to get input about important issues within the community and to make ourselves more accessible to the public."

Currently, when a complaint is received by EPD, it goes through a

process of information analysis before being passed to the Internal Affairs division. The Internal Affairs line supervisor will then conduct an investigation to see if the complaint is valid.

Eugene resident Randy Gicker said during the forum that his son was charged by EPD with two crimes he did not commit. He added that he was concerned about the actions EPD took against the officers involved with the charges.

"... After a news agency released a videotape proving that my son did not commit the crime, we registered a complaint with the Eugene police," he said. "The bottom line is that the process of monitoring the Eugene police must not be left to Internal Affairs ... Cops don't let other cops go to jail. The process must be done by an outside agency."

Several audience members expressed optimism about the relationship between EPD and the community. English major Scott Lu said holding forums is a step in the right direction.

"I would like to give the new police chief the benefit of the doubt and assume that his heightened visibility means that he is truly ready to address the grievances of the community," he said. "However, when I see Eugene police officers on campus, I am a little bit wary. It will take more time for me to truly believe that they have the best interests of the community in mind."

More information about filing complaints with EPD can be found by calling 682-5668 or by visiting http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/police/Int_Affairs/aic.htm.

— Jeremy Berrington

REDESIGN

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more plaza-like feel and by limiting traffic (within) the area."

The funding for the kiosk project came from the sale of engraved bricks that were sold during the University's 125th anniversary commemoration. Those bricks will be used as part of the pavement in the area around the kiosk.

The School of Architecture and Allied Arts' Landscape Architecture Design/Build Studio class provided design ideas, and the Department of Public Safety provided funding for the project, Steggell wrote.

The design isn't complete yet, however. The Campus Planning Committee has met numerous times during the past couple of months to discuss the design, hear comments from the campus community and make necessary changes.

Minutes from the committee's May 3 meeting show that several public suggestions have now been recommended as changes to the design and construction of the kiosk area.

The committee decided to research and consider options for internal kiosk lighting. The minutes state the committee wants to make sure the kiosk will not create a dark area leading to safety concerns.

The committee also agreed to include trash cans and cigarette receptacles in the project to make sure service functions are accommodated "but, do not detract from the overall design," the minutes state. They also discussed relocating newspaper and recycling bins.

Stan Jones, associate professor of landscape architecture, has been heavily involved with the design concepts for the project. Jones is teaching the Landscape Architecture Design/Build Studio, which is composed of students who have been working on the kiosk design since the course began spring term.

Jones said the current kiosk was a part of a design/build studio class in the 1970s.

Students in similar studios have completed various projects on campus, especially near the Eugene Millrace, he said.

"It's nice that we're finally bringing these projects to the heart of campus," Jones said.

He said this design/build studio group has been working on designs for the kiosk as well as construction drawings. In addition, the students are working with the professional landscape architecture firm that has been hired to work on the project.

"The students are learning an awful lot about realities of design and construction and how to work with real clients," Jones said, adding that the students also are learning how design can bring together people with different opinions.

Jones said the students are getting great experience by seeing how the designs become real with actual supplies. In the summer, the same class will be offered and the students will actually do hands-on work for the project, using jackhammers and pouring concrete, Jones said.

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at lisacatto@dailyemerald.com.

GRIEVANCES

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Cecil said the GTFF will focus primarily on the issue of undergraduates grading other undergraduates' work.

"We especially question how that can be an appropriate educational opportunity for an undergraduate," he said.

In the math department, an undergraduate teacher assistant's responsibilities include grading quizzes and holding office hours. They also conduct weekly discussion sections in which they assist students with worksheets, administer quizzes formulated by the professor and answer questions about current material.

However, Graduate School Associate Dean Marian Friestad said that if an undergraduate's grading responsibilities are only a part of the student's classroom experience, it could be considered an educational experience.

"Taken holistically, I think it is an educational experience," she said.

Former teacher assistant and math major Eric Boyd said he believes the job has tremendous educational value.

"I'm considering becoming a teacher," he said. "It makes me understand the math I'm teaching better."

But there are some undergraduate employees who lack classroom experience and whose responsibilities are limited to grading other undergraduate work.

Friestad said she'd object to such a scenario if the grading fell under the guise of "clerical work."

"I think that it's hard to say that

clerical work itself should be considered an 'appropriate educational opportunity,' she said.

However, general sciences major Leslie Kimes said she enjoys her position as a grader for a statistics class in the math department, and even finds it to have educational value.

"It gives me a chance to keep up with my statistics," she said. "It's one of the ways for me to stay involved in math."

Kimes' responsibilities, however, go far beyond rote clerical work. Kimes grades homework, and before she even starts she must look through the problems to get the gist of the assignment. She then chooses which problems best represent the assignment and thoroughly examines five of the problems on a student's homework. If there is a flaw in the student's work, she makes notes and corrections. The entire process takes her about seven hours a week.


Regardless of the students' enjoyment of their undergraduate employment, Cecil said the GTFF is concerned that such practices not only deprive GTFs of employment but are unfair to undergraduates as well.

"They're doing work that if it were assigned to a GTF ... (the GTF) would be eligible for a tuition waiver, good health care, minimum salaries, job protection against overworking and discrimination," he said.

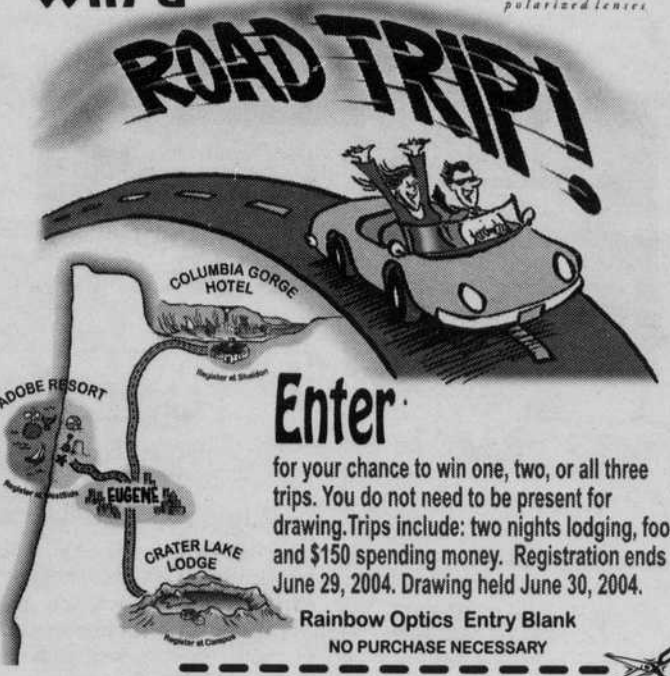
Cecil said there has been discussion among the GTFF to organize the undergraduate employees into a union of their own, saying that "these jobs are typically covered under a contract."

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at mariahalingit@dailyemerald.com.

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