

BARNHART

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the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

The grant covers 11 percent of students' educational costs.

"Only 70 percent who qualify will actually receive the grant," said Adam Davis, state affairs coordinator.

"So, not only is it enormously restrictive as to who qualifies, but not all of them get it," Barnhart said.

Davis proposed that the Oregon Opportunity Grant should be increased to allow everyone who qualifies to have access.

Davis said the grant size should be flat. "No matter where you go (to school), you should get the same amount of money," he said.

ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Amy DuFour talked with Barnhart about qualified students unable to continue their education after high school because of their immigration status.

ASUO is asking legislators to extend in-state tuition to graduates of Oregon high schools who attend an in-state high school for at least three years and have been accepted to an Oregon university while working on getting citizenship.

Barnhart called the criteria for extension of in-state tuition "vague," but agrees with the idea.

"My position is that those people are residents of our state: They pay taxes in Oregon, they are going to be residents of Oregon; we better make sure they get educated so they can continue to help the economy rather than being a drain-off," Barnhart said. "It seems pretty obvious."

Barnhart means business, he said, but he approaches subjects with a sense of humor.

When Petkun proposed to talk about OUS funding, Barnhart said, "Hey, I was wondering when we were going to get to that."

Petkun said he is concerned tuition for some OUS students will increase by an average of 12.7 percent during the 2004-05 academic year.

"It's continuing a trend that has been occurring since I've been at UO," Petkun said.

Petkun said it's getting to a point where some people are unable to access education.

Barnhart agrees. He said there is no general tax increase possible in the near future and that voters would never pass a sales tax.

"(The people) have made it very clear that they won't accept it," Barnhart said, referring to the voters voting down measures that would involve an increase in taxes.

Barnhart said under right-wing Republican control the legislature has had different priorities.

"(They allotted) \$1 billion per biennium in tax expenditures for out-of-state corporations," Barnhart said.

Petkun thanked Barnhart for his role in higher education.

"You've really been helpful to us; it's important to have a strong voice, especially in higher education," Petkun said.

Barnhart said he found the meeting helpful.

"There are a lot of issues facing higher education and I wonder what students are thinking," Barnhart said.

Petkun and his fellow representatives are more than happy to let him know.

"This is a time when legislators are assembling in their heads the priorities for the session," Petkun said. "We want to be one of the first things they think about."

And Barnhart finds out what they are thinking by going door to door, and with meetings like this one.

Although the University campus — save the law school — is just outside his district, Barnhart says he still sees higher education as an important issue.

"Believe it or not, where we are right now is not my district," Barnhart noted. "If you go across the street for ice cream afterward, you'll be in my district."

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CAMPUS

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negotiation process. Lowe said he found the willingness of all parties to negotiate, as well as their creative approach to problem solving, to be very helpful.

"The public land-use process is usually an adversarial one," Lowe said.

Negotiations, spread over 20 meetings, lasted 18 months. The original 40 concerns of the Fairmount Neighbors association were whittled down to two: increased traffic the expansion would bring into the neighborhood, and possible future development on Villard Street, where it borders the Fairmount neighborhood. That land is owned exclusively by the University.

To help resolve the traffic concern, the city is funding a \$35,000 study of traffic patterns in the Fairmount neighborhood. The study will be used to make changes to reduce traffic problems associated with the expansion.

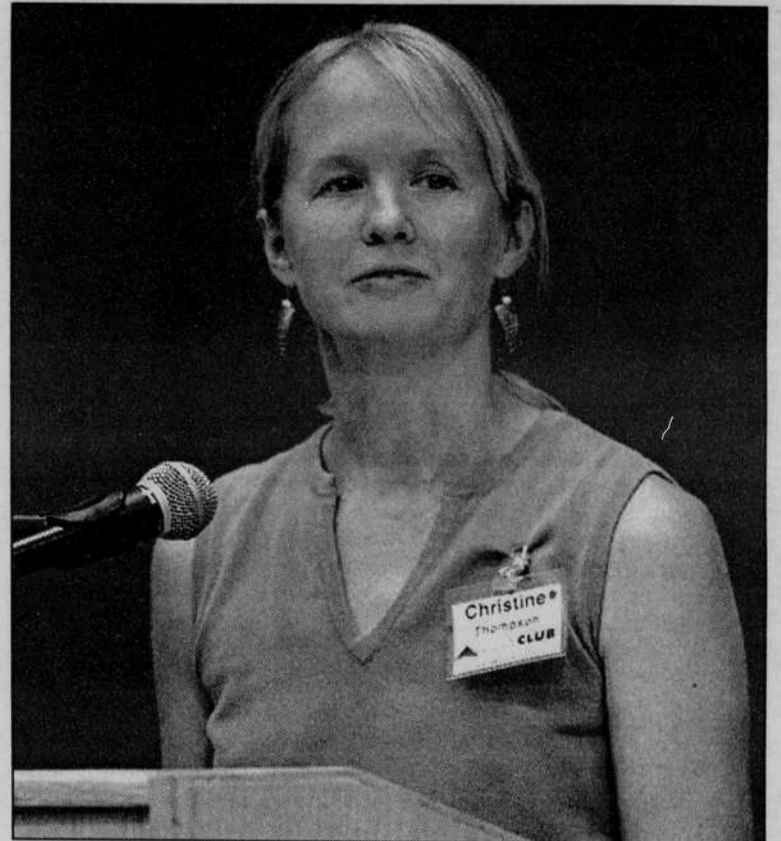
To settle the second concern, the University agreed to apply for only seven use permits along Villard Street, which will limit the changes that can be made to that area.

Thompson and Christine Taylor, president of the Fairmount Neighbors association, attributed the smoothness of talks to the cooperative attitudes of the negotiators. The final plan was passed by unanimous vote in the association.

The University hosted a number of meetings and open houses for the Fairmount neighbors so they would be able to see the University's plans and have their voices heard every step of the way, Thompson said.

Taylor offered praise for the Fairmount Neighbors association — a volunteer organization — for the time its members invested in the project. Taylor also had some harsh words for the city.

"One stake-holder, the city, was



Erik R. Bishoff Online & Photo Editor

University Planning Associate Christine Thompson spoke to the Eugene City Club Friday about plans for the future of the East Campus neighborhood.

not present," Taylor said. "This didn't become a city problem until the University submitted its plan."

"It would have been greatly beneficial to have the city involved earlier in the process," Thompson agreed.

The negotiations were a success in both getting the University what it needed out of the East University neighborhood and in establishing a relationship of trust with the Fairmount Neighbors association, Thompson said. That trust was strong enough that when the University applied to change some of the land in the East Campus project area from low-density residential to public land, there were no

objections. Thompson said the University would definitely use this process of negotiations in future land deals.

Taylor pointed out that with the University set to build a new court in the near future, the Fairmount Neighbors association will have no choice but to use this process in the future.

"Unless something changes, the level of commitment from the Fairmount neighbors will have to remain the same," Taylor said.

The original East Campus policy was written in 1982 and by 2002 needed to be updated to reflect the modern needs of the University, Thompson said.

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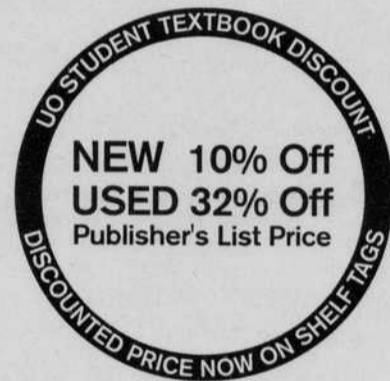
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