

Reception recognizes long-time staff members

More than 350 University staff members were honored Tuesday, some for more than 30 years of service

HEATHER CRABTREE
FREELANCE REPORTER

The Officers of Administration council honored University President Dave Frohnmayer and more than 350 other University staff members for their years of service during a reception following the annual OA council

meeting on Tuesday.

At Tuesday's reception, Frohnmayer presented pins to 18 staff members who have worked for the University for 30 or more years. At the end of the ceremony, Becky Goodrich, a 38-year veteran, surprised Frohnmayer with a pin for his 12 years of service.

Although Frohnmayer has worked off and on for the University since 1971, the OA recognizes only consecutive years of service. Frohnmayer celebrated his tenth year as president last July. He served as dean at the law school before assuming the duties of president.

"Whenever you have the chance to celebrate you should take it and that is what we are doing," Frohnmayer said during his presentation speech.

Tuesday's meeting was the first meeting the council held this school year. The council sought feedback from OA members in order to plan brown-bag meetings that will discuss specific topics, including suicide prevention and parking issues.

The OA council has six members and is elected by the administrative staff to represent different areas of the University. It is a liaison between administrative faculty and the vice president for administration. Council members serve two-year terms and most choose to serve a second term, which is the limit.

Human Resources Director Linda King updated members on an OA project that was started last year. King is in the process of combining material relating to OA members to be posted on the OA Web site. The material posted will include governance policies, discipline policies and compensation policies. King hopes to have the project completed by the end of November.

"There is a real identity crisis with OAs," OA Chairwoman Marilyn Reid said. "We want to reiterate that yes, OAs are faculty and yes, this material pertains to them. It's a very hard group to represent because it's such a range of people."

Senior Vice President and Provost John Moseley answered questions regarding budget and salary increases. University salaries are currently frozen by state mandate because of funding issues, but that is expected to change.

"We expect and hope that higher education will be treated favorably in the governor's budget," Moseley said.

The University will be able to maintain this year's budget because of a 3 percent increase in enrollment, he said. However, the next biannual budget will be just as tight as the current budget.

Despite a possible increase in the budget for higher education, there isn't going to be a lot of extra money floating around, Moseley said. However, the University does expect enough to grant staff a small salary increase.

Frohnmayer discussed the building of Lillis Business Complex, the Recreation Center and the art museum as symbols of the university's progress.

He encouraged council members to continue with their work and equated the changes to the University as a sign that it is on the move.

"Without the people who are determined to make it work and not take 'no' for an answer, change won't happen," Frohnmayer said.

Heather Crabtree is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald

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Hunt: Teacher's imminent absence lamented

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"Given that situation, I had no choice," Hunt said.

Hunt said President Bush's reelection only served as a reinforcement to a decision that had already been made.

"We have an international war criminal as President, following policies that are against international human rights and international treaties of laws," Hunt said.

Hunt said he will retire in June 2005 and move to British Columbia with his wife soon after.

Had Sen. John Kerry won the election, Hunt said he would still be leaving, not just because of health care costs but because Kerry did not run on an anti-war platform and made no overt denunciation of the torture of Iraqi prisoners taking place under the current administration.

"The only thing I heard him say was he was willing to do anything, with no limitations, to defeat terrorism," Hunt said.

If Hunt did have access to an affordable health care plan he said his decision would "probably not" be any different.

"I've been fighting for change in this country since I was 12," Hunt said. "I'm tired of beating my head against the wall."

Unlike most Americans considering a move to Canada at this time, Hunt said he will have no difficulty returning to the country he lived in

for 12 years despite his lack of Canadian citizenship.

"I don't think Canada's going to tell Kathy she can't come back in," Hunt said, referring to his wife's Canadian citizenship. "I'm part of her furniture."

Hunt said one of the reasons his wife never gave up her Canadian citizenship was so the two could easily relocate.

He said he will still retain his U.S. citizenship as he did when he first lived in Canada, just in case he ever feels the need to flee the country.

Hunt said there is always a possibility of a country becoming unlivable for someone who values democracy and freedom, but said he always suspected the United States would be the first offender.

"I had little doubt about which direction we would flee," Hunt said.

Sophomore Sophie Bloch, a student in Hunt's Social Issues and Movements class, said she is saddened by Hunt's decision but not surprised.

"He really sees the world for what it is," Bloch said.

Bloch said Hunt mentioned his possible retirement and move to Canada in a class last year.

Hunt made it clear that his decision was a result of Canada's superior health care system combined with the "overall conscientious difference" of Canada compared to the United States, Bloch said.

Associate sociology professor Michael Dreiling said Hunt's retirement

will definitely be a loss for the students, faculty and staff at the University.

"Chuck has left an incredible legacy," Dreiling said. "He reminds people to stay on that kind of critical edge."

Bloch agreed. "He has a very powerful role on campus," Bloch said.

Hunt said he is not abandoning the progressive movement and will be actively involved in some pressing environmental issues in Canada.

Canada is light years ahead of the United States in the progressive movement, Hunt said, but there are still many issues that deserve attention.

Though Hunt admits he is saddened at the thought of leaving his country, he said leaving is really the only thing he can do, financially and morally.

The current buzz about an American exodus to Canada is not unprecedented, Hunt said. While under apartheid rule, South Africa experienced a steady exodus of people upset with the overtly racist practices of the South African government.

"That's the kind of context you can see this in," Hunt said.

Hunt said the United States has been on a downward spiral for years and has reached a point where a move to Canada may seem to some like the only livable option.

"I would recommend it," Hunt said.

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