



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students were invited to speak with Adam Petkun and the ASUO on Tuesday afternoon in a town-hall-style meeting held in the Ben Linder Room.

IN BRIEF

Students voice questions at town-hall meeting

A handful of students attended the first ASUO town-hall meeting of the year on Tuesday afternoon to express concerns and find out about the ASUO's current programs.

ASUO President Adam Petkun and other ASUO leaders spoke during the open forum, held 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room of the EMU.

Petkun answered questions about topics ranging from the confusing layout of the EMU to the ASUO's

lobbying efforts in Salem. He said student government members and other students will travel to Salem on Tuesday to lobby for increased higher-education funding.

Petkun said he was satisfied with turnout at the event and with the quality of questions students asked. He emphasized that students are always welcome to express their opinions at the ASUO office.

Petkun also said he hopes the forum will become a regular event. Portland State University's student government holds a town-hall meeting about once per week, but that might be too frequent for the ASUO, he said.

— Parker Howell

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• plastic •
• drink boxes •
• all paper •
• newspaper •
• cardboard •

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Books: 'Bundled' items cause trouble for teachers, students

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"Ripoff 101" said they used bundled items "rarely" or "never."

Stephen Gladfelter, a math instructor at Lane Community College who spoke at the event, described ways bundled materials can cause problems in the classroom.

"The different problems in the workbook weren't really a representative sample of the problems in the book," Gladfelter said of a book he had taught from.

Some books also come bundled with answer keys. While answer keys are intended to help students check their work, Gladfelter said they are often misused.

"Obviously students have to take some responsibility for their own habits, but to have this bundled with the text makes it a little too tempting," he said.

Bookstore Textbook and General Team Leader Chris Standish said the bookstore encourages faculty not to order books packaged in bundles.

"We let the faculty know that by

requesting bundles, they're restricting access to used books," Standish said. "We engage in bundle-busting, and I think that's a really good thing for our students."

Despite the efforts of schools and students, textbook prices are still increasing. Gladfelter said the textbook for an intermediate algebra class he recently taught cost \$95, more than any of the textbooks he bought when he took graduate-level math classes five years ago.

"For a book that's not even at the college-transfer level to cost more than a graduate-level book doesn't make a lot of sense to me," he said.

ASUO President Adam Petkun said textbooks represent up to half the cost of attending community colleges and almost a fifth of the cost at some four-year colleges.

"This is a trend that puts students deeper in debt and puts access to higher education on its deathbed," Petkun said.

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