

Today	Friday	Saturday
High: 65 Low: 45 Precip: 20%	High: 70 Low: 48 Precip: 20%	High: 70 Low: 47 Precip: 30%

**IN BRIEF**

**University panel considers medical leave policy**

Community members concerned about proposed changes to the University's medical leave policy will have a chance to voice their opinions Friday during a forum in the EMU.

The revision would no longer guarantee re-admission for a student placed on leave because of "a serious medical or mental health condition or emergency that substantially threatens the welfare of self or others," among other changes, according to a March 1 draft of the policy. Under the changes, the vice president for Student Affairs and a newly formed Suicide Assessment Team would approve a student's return after reviewing a student submitted plan for return.

The changes would grant final decision-making power to the vice president for student affairs and allow him or her to seek input from the Counseling and Testing Center director for psychological cases.

The policy also creates new "Standards of Responsibility and Self Care" students must follow.

"The University of Oregon administration has determined that the current medical leave policy is outdated and does not represent best practices for responding to students' need for medical leave to deal with serious health conditions," according to a notice about the hearing.

If approved, the changes will amend the Oregon Administrative Rules governing medical leave at the University.

Connie Tapp of the Office of the General Counsel will act as the hearings officer for the meeting. She will collect both written and oral testimony during the one hour forum, she said.

Public comment on the changes lasts until noon on April 25, according to the notice.

The meeting will be held at 3 p.m. in the Alsea and Coquille Rooms in the EMU.

— Parker Howell

**Architecture dean returns to Oregon after heart attack**

Robert Melnick, dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, is back in Eugene after a heart attack during spring break stranded him on the East Coast.

Melnick has served as dean of A&AA for 10 years and is serving his last year in the position.

He said he suffered a heart attack that required a triple-bypass, open-heart surgery while visiting family in Massachusetts. His surgery prevented him from traveling by plane and his doctor ordered him to rest and said he should return to work in May.

Doug Blandy, associate dean for academic affairs for the department, has been appointed to fill the dean position while Melnick is on medical leave, Melnick said.

Melnick said he misses his coworkers, but he appreciates the support he has gotten from everybody.

"I'm getting hundreds of cards and e-mails from people, so that's just been remarkable," Melnick said. "At one point my room was filled with flowers."

Tracy Bars, assistant to the dean, said people from around the country have sent cards to the school for

Melnick, who is highly regarded nationally in the field of landscape architecture. She added that she sent cards the school received to him while he was on the east coast.

"I probably sent between 50 and 75 over the course of the first few weeks," Bars said, adding that she still receives about five per week for him.

— Jared Paben

**Miscalculation leaves ASUO Senate with shortfall**

An accounting error has left the ASUO Student Senate with \$4,099 less in surplus funds than expected, causing Senate President James George to ask groups to make special requests for funds as a "last resort" in an e-mail to student groups Tuesday.

Senate ledgers showed \$20,782 in surplus as of April 11, which caused George to alert groups in a similar e-mail that the Senate "would like to fully support all surplus requests, but unfortunately due to our limited funds, we may not be able to do so."

The Senate then spent almost \$16,000 and later realized the accounting error. It was left with just \$335.80 remaining Wednesday night after allocating \$360 to the UO Chess Club to hire professional instructors.


George said an error in a spreadsheet the ASUO controllers used to track the funds caused the mistake.

George said the Senate can access \$5,000 in unallocated reserves.

He added that the Senate will become an avenue to help groups find other funding sources.

The Senate also voted to allow the Assault Prevention Shuttle service to use \$1,500 to cosponsor other events. The money was originally earmarked to conduct background checks on APS drivers, but the organization was prohibited from doing so, Senator Sarah Wells said.

— Parker Howell

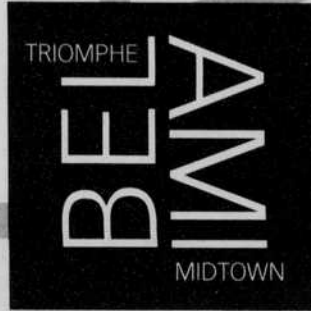


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