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## UO Senate discusses salaries for faculty

*The process for drafting the diversity plan was also a topic of conversation at the meeting*

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The newly drafted diversity plan and the long-lasting search for more funding for faculty salaries were topics of discussion at Wednesday's University Senate meeting. University Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Greg Vincent addressed concerns about the process for drafting the diversity plan, and Senior Vice President and Provost John Moseley defended the administration's role in the search for salary funding.

Steve Hsu, chair of the Senate Budget Committee, outlined where the average University professor's salary stands in comparison with other universities. He emphasized that the differences in average salaries are becoming so problematic that the overall quality of the University as an academic institution is suffering.

The average total compensation for faculty members stood at 82.5 percent of faculty compensation at universities considered to be the University's peers, according to the report. Last year, that figure was 84.9 percent.

When comparing salary only, University faculty members made 77.3 percent of the average faculty salaries at competing universities, down from 79.3 percent the previous year.

The University is currently in the middle of a \$600 million fundraising campaign, and Hsu said a portion of those endowments need to be dedicated to fixing the salary crisis that is threatening to remove the University from its position as a leading research institute.

"If you make a choice not to do it, how can you claim that faculty compensation or faculty quality are your top priority?" Hsu said.

Moseley responded to the comment. "The endowments are all designated for specific purposes," he said. "It is a misstatement to say that the administration could make a decision to direct \$150 million or even \$10 million of that."

Hsu agreed that the statement was "a little overly provocative" but said he intended it to be that way in hopes of getting the administration's attention.

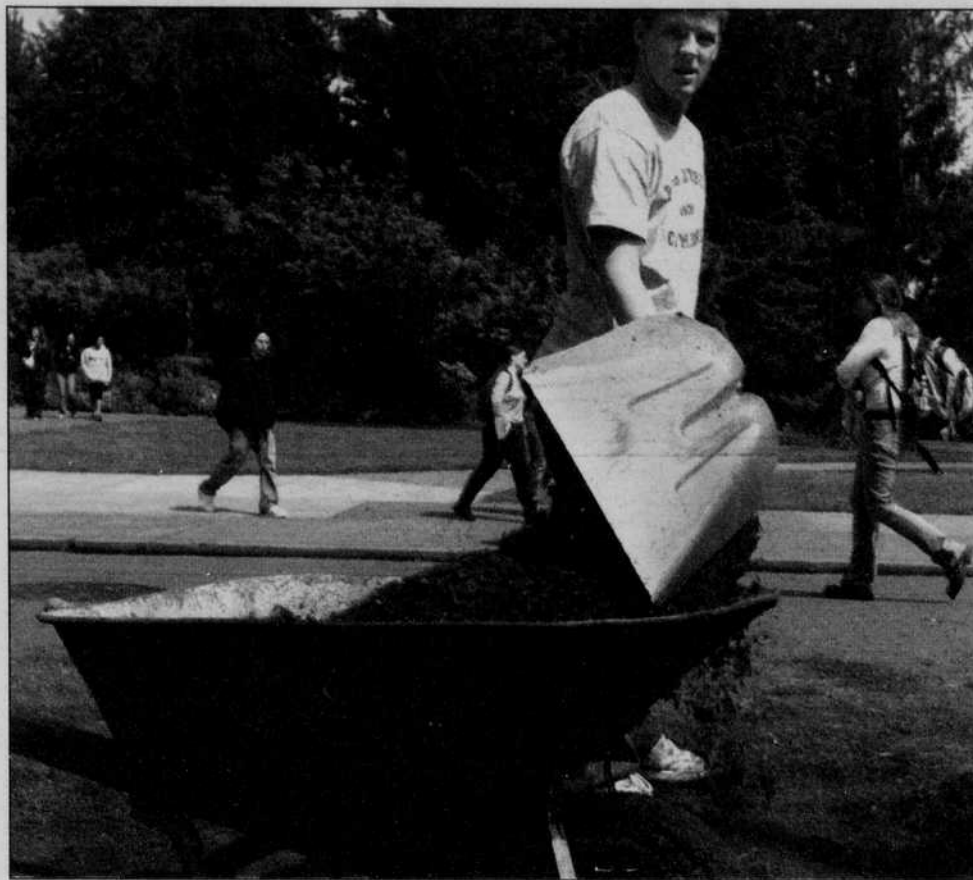
Moseley said he agrees that faculty compensation is a pressing issue but emphasized the difficulty of finding one solution to the problem.

"I absolutely place it as a top priority, and I am very concerned about the warnings that you give based on these numbers," Moseley said. "But let's not get a message out that there's some simple solution if the administration would just get off its rear end."

Vincent updated the Senate on the Diversity Work Group's recommendation, a recommendation Senator and math professor Huaxin Lin said is not at all reflective of what was discussed during the diversity advisory council meetings.

"Last Friday, I found a printed document from somebody else with my name

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NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore business student Aaron Alway shoveled and spread mulch for University Day on Thursday morning.

## Mark of a century

*More than 775 people participated in this year's University Day by spreading bark mulch, planting flowers and picking up litter*

BY EVA SYLWESTER  
NEWS REPORTER

The University campus got a fresh coat of mulch and flowers Thursday as part of the annual University Day.

This year's event, dubbed "Leave Your Mark," commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first University Day, which took place in 1905. In the early 1900s, the University held an annual spring celebration called Junior Week that included parades, dances and social events. Members of the

class of 1906 instituted the community service event to make their Junior Day celebration more meaningful, according to a press release. University Day fell dormant in the 1920s, but Brian Sandy and Doug Untalan, two students who heard about University Day on a campus tour, resurrected the tradition in 1990.

"I think that we all get a lot from our campus and it's important to give back," University Day Committee chair Heidi Rivinus said, describing

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## Middle East Club enters scene with first festival

*Participants said the event, filled with music and mingling, promoted a positive cultural view*

BY BRITNI MCCLENAHAN  
NEWS REPORTER

The Middle East Festival was in full swing Thursday night at Riley Hall as students, visitors and community members mingled and spoke Farsi, Arabic, Hebrew and English throughout a night filled with traditional food, music, film and culture.

The Middle East Club, a group that was formed in fall 2004 and sponsored the festival, was founded primarily by undergraduate students Natalie Tajipour, Babak Ghafarzade and Laila Taraghi. The group initially began as an Iranian student group but grew to include the people and cultures throughout the region.

The festival was the group's first event. "We had no idea what to expect tonight," Ghafarzade said. "It's really nice to see so much support from the community for the Middle East Club and to see so many people interacting with each other."

The Middle East Club has applied for recognition as an official incidental-fee funded student group for the upcoming school year, but Thursday night's event was paid for entirely by club members' personal funds and the Residence Hall Association.

The festival kicked off with the musical talents of seventh grader Seena Maleki playing the santur, a trapezoid-shaped stringed instrument played by striking the strings with light wooden hammers. Fifteen-year-old Farbod Sedeh played the tar, a stringed instrument resembling a guitar. Music education major Pouria Sayrafi played the tombak, a Persian hand drum.

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## Students' fine art displayed on campus

*The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will host an exhibit of the works of nine graduate students*

BY ADAM CHERRY  
NEWS REPORTER

The University's annual Master of Fine Arts Exhibition will make a long-awaited homecoming to a newly remodeled museum today.

The exhibit, a showcase of art from graduate students in the College of Architecture & Allied Arts MFA program, will open to the public at 6 p.m. at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Nine students will show select paintings, photographs, prints, jewelry and other art.

The show marks the debut exhibition for all of the artists, museum spokeswoman Katie Sproles said.

"Such a big part of our mission is as an educational institution," Sproles said. "We're proud of all the hard work these students have done. It's an honor to show their work."

Sproles said it's exciting to display work by students at the

University's own art museum.

"Typically, this show has a lot of interest with students because it's their peers who are working on it," Sproles said.

"The show at the museum is an extremely big deal," said Kate Wagle, director of the Department of Art. "It's an opportunity to show in a first-class exhibition environment."

The museum closed to the public in fall 2000 for a renovation project that lasted through January of this year, forcing the MFA exhibit to find a new home in the interim.

"When the museum closed, we had to find a new space, which felt a bit like a catastrophe," Wagle said.

Wagle said it was difficult to find galleries with necessary security and proper lighting for the exhibition while the University museum was being remodeled, but the exhibit finally settled at Portland's



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Sally Metcalf has fiberwork on display at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art as part of the Master of Fine Arts Exhibition.

Pacific Northwest College of Art.

"We had an alum who was dean there," Wagle said. "He was interested in housing us, and it ended up being a very good thing, but they're glad to be home."

Amjad Faur is one of the students whose work, a series of photos entitled "We Who Believe in

the Unseen," is on show. Faur hopes to earn his degree in June and described his art as a "tonally rich, black-and-white image of a table or pedestal and a stage where some sort of event takes place."

One of his images shows a pillar of smoke descending upon a table.

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