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Drafters dispute new conduct code

Disagreement has arisen among members of the committee charged with revising the student code for the first time since 1964

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The University's Student Conduct Code is being completely revised for the first time since 1964, but members of the committee charged with drafting the new rules of student conduct said they don't all agree that proposed changes are in students' best interests.

The University Senate's Student Conduct Code Committee presented a draft of the nearly complete, 23-page revision to the University Senate last week. Committee faculty co-chair Bill Daley described the changes, which are based on a popular model conduct code in use at a number of universities, as consistent with the best national practices.

"We have changed the tenor of the document," Daley said. "We've changed the flavor, the thrust. So we've gone from a legalistic, punitive kind of system to an educational kind of system."

Although the existing code has been criticized as being dry and outdated, committee student co-chair Michael Sherman said the students on the conduct code committee generally disagreed with proposed changes.

"The model code is much more flexible in allowing the University to determine if a student had violated the student conduct code," Sherman said. "You end up with having a trade-off between flexibility and the rights that students have in the student conduct code."

"Our (current) code is much more legalistic," he added. "Not only in the language that it uses, but also in the types of procedures. It's much more protective of the rights of an accused student."

Corey Harmon, a student member of the group, said the four students and four faculty members in the committee have often been divided when discussing elements of the code.

"The students went with the faculty, and not necessarily willingly," Harmon said. "I would say that the students made more of a compromise than the faculty did."

"There are some student rights that, we would say, are hindered by (the code)," Harmon said, adding that the proposed code is worse than the one the University has now.

Sherman said he feels like the updated code widens the definitions of violations, meaning more actions are considered offenses.

"You're making it easier for students to violate the student conduct code and you're making it easier for the University to find students guilty of those violations, and the sanctions are the same," Sherman said.

Harmon and Sherman both said that they took issue with students' legal representation.

"An attorney can still participate, (but) their role is much more limited," Sherman said. "In serious situations, you have a chance of being expelled from the University, such a large loss for a

CONDUCT, page 4

Community groups fear impacts of ODOT plan

The Oregon Department of Transportation is planning a Franklin-I-5 interchange

BY EMILY SMITH
NEWS REPORTER

Eugene citizen groups are concerned that the proposed Interstate-5 and Franklin Boulevard interchange will have negative effects on Alton Baker Park and increase traffic in the Fairmount neighborhood, east of the University.

The Oregon Department of Transportation wrapped up Phase I of the project Wednesday morning at a Board of County Commissioners meeting. The presentation addressed a plan that would make it easier for Eugene-bound motorists to exit Interstate-5 onto Franklin Boulevard when heading south.

Thus far, city and county officials have supported the project and the Eugene City Council "seemed generally supportive of the open public process" ODOT is utilizing to work with stakeholders and community groups, ODOT Senior Transportation Planner Tom Boyatt said.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association member David Sonnichsen said he is concerned the interchange will "bring traffic and noise" to quiet parts of Alton Baker Park, and he would like to see ODOT look at some alternatives to ramps onto and off of Franklin Boulevard. He said he is also concerned about the navigability and scenery along the Willamette River if there are more giant cement pillars protruding from the water.

"I have many concerns about any further intrusion into the park," Alton Baker Park planning committee chair Bonnie Ullmann said.

She said she doesn't want to see any more motorized vehicles in the area.

In a letter to the Mayor and Eugene City Councilors, former FNA Traffic Committee Chair Kristen Taylor said the association is worried about "possible impacts to the Willamette River Greenway and to the development of the Walnut Mixed-Use Area as well the increased traffic on Franklin Boulevard and neighborhood streets due to the proposed expansion of an I-5 interchange at Franklin Boulevard."

Boyatt said one-on-one interviews with stakeholders have been conducted and their concerns have been documented. There are several different sites still being considered as ODOT embarks on Phase II of the four-phase process.

Boyatt told commissioners that ODOT will hold open houses for stakeholders as part of the second phase. At the end of this phase, city and county elected officials will need to

ODOT, page 4

WORLDWIDE

Smoke break

Student Recreation Center employees report that many students light up a cigarette the moment after stepping out of the gym, Peer Health Education Coordinator Ramah Leith said.

So in alliance with World No Tobacco Day, the recreation center was one of two locations the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center set up its smoking awareness booth Wednesday. World No Tobacco Day is on May 31.

The institute displayed different food products made by Nabisco, Kraft, Post and other companies that sell tobacco. It also displayed a diagram of the human body and the effects smoking has on different areas of it.

Institute staff members demonstrated the difference between a healthy lung and a smoker's lung by showing two pairs of pigs' lungs. They also gave away pamphlets and stress balls.

Resources to help students who want to quit smoking are available in the Health Center, Health Education Director Paula Staight said.

Students can purchase low-cost patches, and gum is available by request.

— Emily Smith



Jennifer Hymer of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center demonstrates the difference in capacity between healthy and unhealthy lungs Wednesday in the EMU.

NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Physics professor discusses mysteries of the universe

Jim Brau will speak as part of the University's celebration in honor of the World Year of Physics, a remembrance of Einstein's 'Miracle Year'

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

A University physics professor will lecture on unseen forces and forms of matter that are part of the universe today at 7 p.m. in 100 Willamette. Jim Brau's talk is titled "Realizing Einstein's Dream: Exploring Our Mysterious Universe."

"The talk is about the mysteries of our universe and our understanding of the universe and our prospects for improving that understanding," Brau said.

Brau said one mystery is dark matter. While it is not visible to telescopes, radio emissions or the naked eye, it outweighs normal matter by a

five to one ratio. Physicists are convinced that dark matter exists because if no matter existed beyond what is observable, the universe would spin itself apart.

Brau said this fact suggests a type of particle, called a supersymmetric particle, that mirrors the actions of particles that compose visible matter.

As an example, Brau described the physicist Paul Dirac, who, while composing a theory of electrons, postulated the concept of anti-particles in 1930. The anti-particle for an electron is a positron, which is similar to an electron in mass

and other properties but has a positive charge. This is different from protons, which are also positively charged, because protons are much bigger than electrons and do not annihilate electrons on contact. Four years after Dirac's paper, anti-particles were discovered in cosmic rays.

"He had to invent a whole new set of particles and they turned out to be real," Brau said, speculating that the current idea of supersymmetric particles may someday be proved in a similar fashion.

"Physics suggests that this should be true,"

BRAU, page 3