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Executive farewell

The former ASUO president and vice president reflect on their accomplishments this year

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

They have tackled a citywide housing standards program, helped register thousands of students to vote and advocated for a state higher education tuition freeze. But former ASUO President Adam Petkun and Vice President Mena Ravassipour still had not tackled the mess of papers on their desks when they left office Tuesday.

Petkun and Ravassipour found themselves the victims of an April Fool's Day joke this year when the contents of their desks were switched. But instead of moving the mess back, they just switched desks.

"Adam's really messy, and I'm, like, pretty clean. And so you can totally tell on the tops of our desks whose desk it is," Ravassipour said. "Adam and I, we still haven't cleaned our desks or switched it back."

Their reaction to the joke represents an executive duo who have taken issues seriously but have not been afraid to have a little fun along the way.

"I've been impressed with how we've been able to ... approach everything — so many serious things that are so important to so many people — with a sense of humor," Petkun said. "We never took ourselves too seriously, although we ... were able to laugh at almost everything."

Petkun and Ravassipour, both 22, reflected Tuesday about their year-long tenure as the leaders of the student government. Petkun said he plans to work for the Oregon Bus Project over the summer while he's on a "figurative bus ride to figure out where I'm going in life," although he eventually wants to apply to law school. Ravassipour said she will take classes over the summer and prepare to apply to law school.

Petkun said getting the Eugene City Council to pass the housing standards ordinance in November was one of the executive's major accomplishments.

"That's the most significant because it's something that affects the most number of people in the city and on campus, and it's something that

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Former ASUO President Adam Petkun and Vice President Mena Ravassipour left office Tuesday after a year of working on campus, city and statewide issues.

DPS given discretion in alcohol citations

The revision, approved by the Public Safety Advisory Group, reconciles two conflicting policies

BY STEVEN R. NEUMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

The Department of Public Safety is giving officers the discretion not to cite students when responding to calls for assistance involving alcohol or drug overdoses. The change, spurred by a committee of students, University staff and community members charged with advising DPS, helped the organization move toward reconciling two conflicting University policies.

In its final meeting of the year Tuesday morning, the Public Safety Advisory Group unanimously made a formal approval of the revision.

Previously the Office of Student Life and DPS had discrepancies between their policies for citing minors who call DPS seeking medical assistance for alcohol poisoning. The office's policy of not citing students if they call seeking medical treatment for alcohol poisoning conflicted with the DPS policy of always issuing citations in such situations.

The revision of the DPS General Order marks the first time that PSAG, a 2-year-old committee plagued with low attendance and subsequent inaction during its first year, was able to effect change through recommendations to DPS.

Group chair and University senior Corey Harmon helped draft the recommendation over several months.

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Campus's long-range plan nears final stage

The building and development project awaits University President Dave Frohnmayer's approval

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

After months of revisions, discussion and more revisions, the Campus Planning Committee voted Tuesday afternoon to send its updated Long Range Campus Development Plan, which provides a framework for the next 10 years of building and development on campus, to University President Dave Frohnmayer for his approval.

The committee had three goals when updating the plan: make it easier to read, strengthen its components and increase development capacity on campus while maintaining the same proportion of grassy areas and open walkways.

It may not have been the most exciting process to go through, but committee members said the revisions will go a long way to

PLAN, page 8

Lab team develops wearable computer, will begin testing

The small plastic boxes, called MoteLabs, are part of a plan to assist people who have brain injuries

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

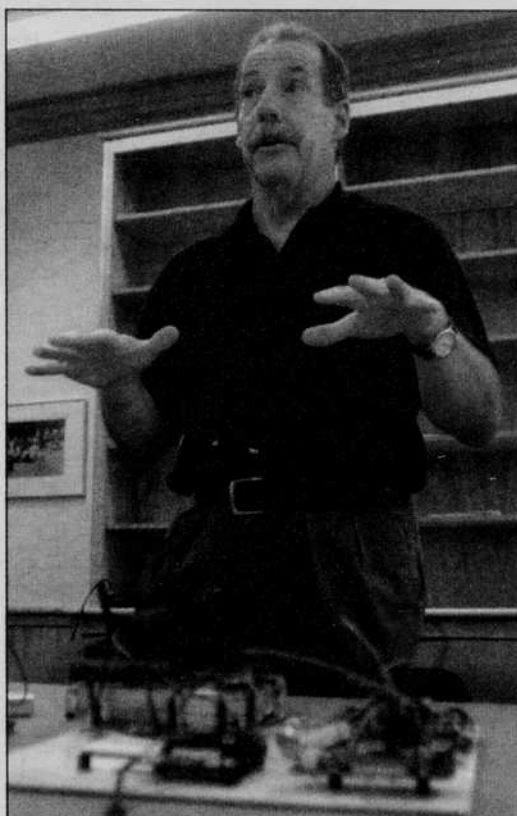
Within the next month, a seminar room in Deschutes Hall will be transformed into a model apartment with all the accessories of modern life, complete with a television and couches. This will serve as a test laboratory for MoteLabs, small plastic boxes that emit information-packed ultrasound waves from tiny computers inside the boxes.

The University's Wearable Computing Laboratory, led by computer and information science professor Steve Fickas, is producing these as

part of its plan to help people who have brain injuries.

Fickas said the project began five years ago when McKay Sohlberg, an associate professor in the College of Education, asked Fickas about technology that could help with her work in cognitive rehabilitation. People with brain injuries often have difficulty remembering things and become homebound because even the simple tasks involved in leaving one's house on routine outings require the ability to mentally keep track

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ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Computer and information science professor Steve Fickas and his team have developed computer chips that attach to various items to help users to not forget their belongings. The project has been in development for five years and is designed for those with brain damage or the elderly.