

Educated voice: ASUO working to inform students

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Now that ASUO senators passed a resolution that requests student involvement in restructuring of the University's funding mechanism and governance, they are seeking to inform more students about the issues.

Resolution co-author and ASUO Sen. Brian Powell said the resolution aimed to ensure student involvement in the issue that has the potential to affect student tuition rates as well as basic University governance. Meanwhile, the resolution does not take any particular stances to ensure it maintains importance.

"It's important to note that any plan that's going to go through the legislature, whether it's viable or not, is going to be altered, amended (and) have to make it through committees," Powell said. "So to take a stance on a specific plan as it stands now would be premature and could render the resolution obsolete even a month from now."

Last May, University President Richard Lariviere presented a white paper introducing the New Partnership, his plan to create a board that governs the University of Oregon to replace the one currently governing all Oregon public universities.

The New Partnership also urges new legislation to

RESOLUTION STIPULATIONS

Central premise:

"Students support quality, affordable and accessible public higher education"

Requests:

- 1. Student voting on any governing or tuition-setting board*
- 2. Faculty and classified staff representation on any governing board*
- 3. Authority of the state legislature to regulate tuition*
- 4. Student leaders and representatives being present in decisions related to the Oregon University System*
- 5. Stable tuition and financial aid being made available*

create a \$1.6 billion bond plan, matched by private investment, to make the University's funding more stable.

All 16 senators in attendance Wednesday approved the resolution promoted by several senators, as well as executive staff. Powell took this as an encouraging sign.

"I think that means myself

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and this committee are empowered by the Senate body," Powell said. "To see that the executive and the Senate in their totality were able to come together to pass this resolution on the behalf of student body is really important."

Sen. Brianna Woodside-Gomez said she sees senators and the executive working together as a victory for students inside and outside the ASUO.

"Especially since the elections, we've had a difficult time working together," Woodside-Gomez said. "This is huge. We were working together and making sure we

were advocates for students."

During fall term, Powell and other senators joined a committee that was created to discuss restructuring issues and work toward creating a resolution.

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