

Delayed Senate assignments due

By JOHN PIPER
Of the Emerald

ASUO senators will finally find out officially what their committee assignments are at tonight's Senate meeting.

The appointments, which were to be made last term, were delayed due to controversy surrounding Senate President Stephanie Larsen's recommendation that Sen. John Stewart be relieved of his voting position on the Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Stewart, who has served as a voting member of the committee for two terms, also spent two terms as a non-voting member. He was originally appointed as a voting member last spring, and was reappointed by Ms. Larsen fall term 1971.

"She wants me off largely for political reasons," Stewart said in an Emerald interview after Tuesday's Fiscal Affairs meeting.

He was especially critical of what he called Ms. Larsen's refusal to release a list of appointments until just before they would be voted on in the Senate last fall.

"I figured something was up when we didn't see the list," he said. Stewart said he and others whom he declined to identify managed to get the list from the EMU print shop before the meeting and had copies made and distributed.

Thus, Ms. Larsen decided against bringing the appointments up for a vote as originally scheduled last term.

Contacted yesterday, Ms. Larsen denied keeping the appointments secret in an attempt to get Senate approval before Stewart would have a chance to mount any opposition.

"I never anticipated there would be such a conflict," she said, explaining it is the Senate president's prerogative to make appointments with Senate approval.

Although she hadn't definitely told Stewart of her intentions before he discovered them on his own, she said she discussed her position with him just before Christmas vacation.

"I didn't have to talk to him (before the meeting)," she said, "he talked to me."

Ms. Larsen said she reconsidered the appointments during Christmas vacation and met with a group of committee chairmen last Wednesday to discuss her selections. She said they agreed with her decision on Stewart.

"I really don't know why she wants to get me off," Stewart said, adding "I've always thought we've gotten along fairly well."

He cited his voting record on the Migrant Labor program and the Black Student Union allocations last year as a possible factor in Ms. Larsen's move.

"She knows I really want to cut the hell out of the AD (athletic department) budget," he added.

"I had high expectations of John Stewart when I reappointed him" last fall, Ms. Larsen explained, but "he didn't measure up to the criteria" for committee members.

She listed the criteria as (not necessarily in order of importance):
... experience

... ability to work with people

... a commitment to do research and work.

Ms. Larsen said she also considers whether a new member will make a committee more "representative of the student body."

Stewart contended his experience on the committee was more valuable than other considerations, such as whether a minority student member would make the committee more representative.

He criticized Ms. Larsen's recommendation of freshman Teresa Moreno as the new voting member on Fiscal Affairs, saying her lack of experience in fiscal matters outweighs any advantage she may give the committee as a minority representative.

"It takes a long time before you get to know what's going on," he said, noting that budget reviews will begin in less than a month (Feb. 7).

Ms. Larsen denied appointing Ms. Moreno only because she is a Chicano.

"She is an extremely capable person," Ms. Larsen said, and can also serve as a liaison between minority groups and the committee.

"I feel justified for the decision I made and I'll stick by it," she said.

Whatever the outcome of tonight's meeting, Stewart will still be a member of the Governing Committee.

But that's his second choice, and he says he would rather keep his voting position on Fiscal Affairs.

"There really aren't very many senators that have been senators as long as I have that didn't get their first choice of committee assignments," he said.

And he is uncertain as to what steps, if any, he will take to fight for his fiscal seat.

The controversy may have one good side to it though: Ms. Larsen said she would support a proposal to make committee appointments public a week before they are voted on.

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