

IFC's power to be decided

Fee allocation hearing slated

By JAIMIE HARTSHORN
of the Emerald

The power to allocate incidental fees is the issue to be brought before the ASUO Constitution Committee in a meeting today, according to Steve Rhodes, Constitution Committee chair.

The hearing is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in the EMU, room to be posted. It is open to the public.

"The Incidental Fee Committee has requested this hearing for an interpretation of provisions within the constitution," Rhodes explained. "The ASUO Executive has argued that certain powers are not vested in the IFC by the constitution."

"The Constitution Committee was formed to be the 'final and supreme authority' of the ASUO on such matters," Rhodes said. "Any student or University organization may ask for an interpretation of the constitution and the committee will set a hearing date."

The committee is composed of five students appointed by the ASUO president. Four members are law students: Rhodes, Jo Pickford, Joe Penna, and Gene Cyrus. Jerry Thomas, an undergraduate, is the fifth member.

"The hearing will be held with a court-type procedure," Rhodes said. "We'll hear both sides of the issue, then make a decision, which must be announced within 30 days. An opinion listing reasons for the decision will be issued later."

"It should be stressed that the Constitution Committee serves as an impartial judge in the matter," Rhodes stated.

In requesting today's hearing,

the IFC submitted a memorandum to the Constitution Committee stating that the constitution gives it "Responsibility for general allocation, supervision, and expenditure of reserves not allocated during the spring term budgeting process, and specific responsibility to establish policy regarding the expenditure of student funds by their recipients."

The IFC contends that the ASUO president's duties in this area are "specifically limited," and the power consists of "submission of an estimate of the ASUO budget for the coming year, submission of an accounting of ASUO expenditures for the current year, and power to veto expenditures."

The IFC will argue that the executive has only "the duty to submit to the IFC an estimate of the ASUO budget for the coming year, the duty to submit with the proposed budget an account of ASUO expenditures for the current year, the power to veto any or all allocations of the IFC, the authority to establish accounting procedures and the authority to expend an executive reserve if provided for by the IFC."

A brief submitted to the Constitution Committee by the ASUO executive counters that the IFC has "decidedly limited legislative jurisdiction."

"Because the president is to carry out the executive function within the constitution, it is necessarily implied that the president shall carry out the legislative pronouncements of the IFC in the area of the budget," according to the executive.

The ASUO executive will argue that "the IFC is a legislative body whose sole purpose is to allocate the incidental fee within the ASUO budget."

"The IFC does not have a right to withhold funds which were to be allocated to programs, to release them contingent upon a discretionary determination of propriety," according to the executive.

"Any funds held by the IFC as 'reserve,' beyond the funds that were to be allocated to programs but were withheld, should be transferred to the executive contingency fund, to be administered by the executive along with other such funds."

"The executive, through the controller, has sole authority for the disbursement of allocated funds within the budget, and has responsibility for the accounting thereof to the IFC at the end of the school year. The IFC may legislate as to disbursement methods and standards, the brief says."

"The IFC is limited in its legislative power to matters described in Art. VII, Section 1, clause 1, of the ASUO constitution."

"The IFC has completed its legitimate functions, and is declared adjourned," the brief argues.

"No salary shall be paid to members of the IFC until elections are held, prior to the formulation of the 1974-75 budget, and then such salary shall be only for the period of the actual formulation of the budget. All such extra salary shall be transferred to the executive contingency fund," according to the ASUO executive.

Mayor applauds University's role in city government, local affairs



Photo by David Pritchard
Les Anderson

The University has come to play an active role in Eugene city government and in community affairs in general, Mayor Les Anderson commented in a talk Tuesday sponsored by the Northwest Forum.

Reflecting on the "good, sound relationship between the University and the community," Anderson pointed out that "University people are active in the City Council and in practically every aspect of city government."

"Eugene is unusual," he said, "in that it represents a melding of many different pursuits: educational, industrial, cultural, and recreational, to mention a few."

"The entire Eugene power structure is a result of the combining of these various groups," Anderson observed.

Responding to questions from the small audience, several of the queries concerning his decision Monday to approve rezoning of land at Valley River center, Anderson admitted that the issue was a crucial one in the community.

"The 1990 plan, designating certain areas for residential, commercial, or recreational use, set aside the Goodpasture Island area (Valley River) for regional shopping activities."

"If we want to change the emphasis of the plan," said Anderson, "we must spell out more concretely the specific activities of both the Goodpasture Island and downtown areas."

"We're at the crossroads," he said, "of determining whether Goodpasture Island will become another downtown Eugene."

"The community is in need of low-cost housing," Anderson said in response to another question. "I can't say we're making rapid strides toward it now, because we're not, but it is definitely something to which local government must address itself more directly."

"In Eugene, citizens tend to respond to problems by forming interest groups of 'behind the scenes' people, who have no concern for fanfare or publicity," Anderson continued. "A major problem of mayors of other cities is that everything has to be worked through the city government."

The University can take part of the credit for this ease of problem-solving, Anderson said, because it "reflects concern over the overall situation sooner than the rest of the community."

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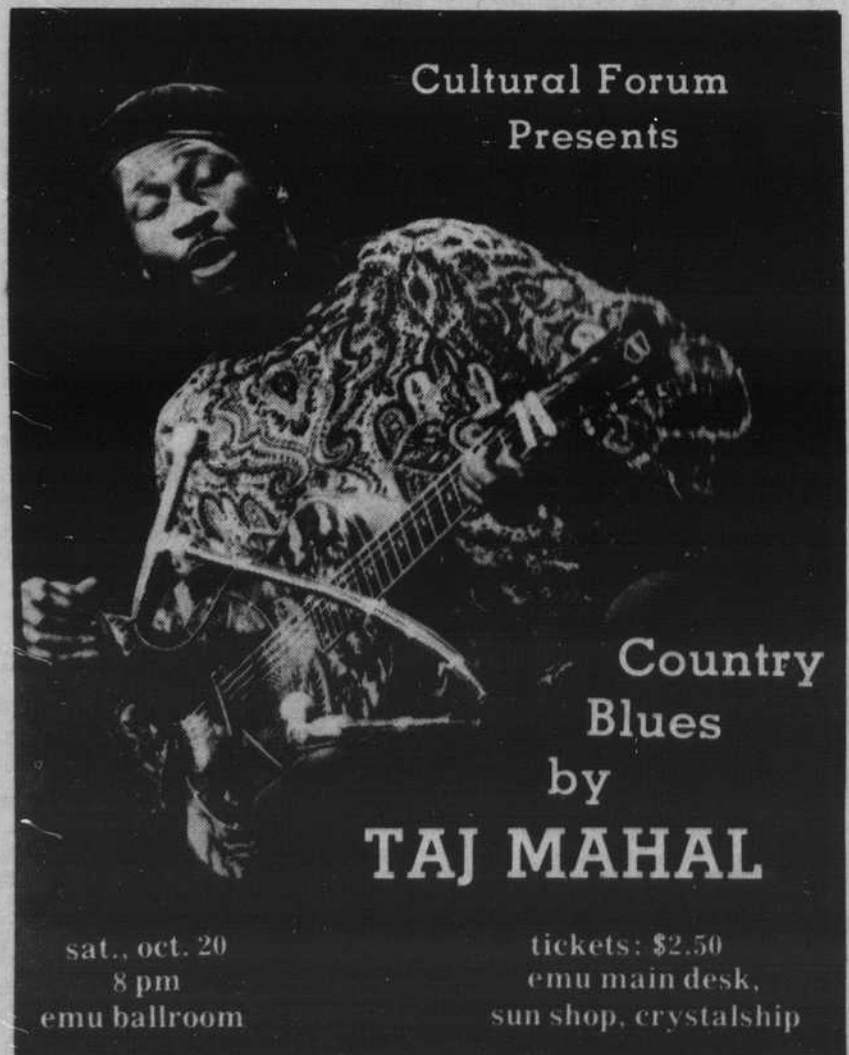
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