

Budget reviews: Thursday ASUO survey indexes student opinion on issues

The Repertory Dancers, Social Workers' Interest Group (SWIG) and the ASUO Off-Campus Housing office appeared before the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) Thursday night to explain and defend their budget requests for next year.

The Repertory Dancers asked for \$6,750, an increase of \$2,600 over last year's funding. The ASUO executive recommended that the group receive only \$2,650.

The main cut was in the area of travel expenses with the executive not recommending any. It said it didn't see how the dancers's travel around the state constituted "an integral part of the on-going campus operations of the program."

SWIG was next on the agenda and surprised the IFC by submitting a revised budget proposal. The group had asked for \$2,962, but then reduced that request by more than \$2,000 soliciting only \$940. This figure is below the executive's recommendation of \$1,207.

"SWIG appreciates the committee's desire to hold expenses down and joins with you in wanting to see the students fees remain at \$23 a year or perhaps reduced..." explained the group.

Nonetheless, the group faced some questioning. IFC member Kevin Farrell proposed a \$25 limit on office supplies instead of \$40.

The group's biggest event is the sponsoring of a Social Work Day with a major name speaker coming to campus. The IFC asked if a lesser name speaker would be more feasible. "The effectiveness and attractiveness of our program depends on the effectiveness and attractiveness of our speaker," replied one group member.

The final group of the evening was ASUO Off-Campus Housing. The housing office asked for \$6,213 this year as opposed to last year's \$4,487. The executive, however, suggested \$4,594.24.

This groups offers rent referral service to students and informs them of their rights under the landlord-tenant act.

"We feel we've been expanding and improving," said one member of the office, and have made it a valuable service.

The group said the five most important budget items were housing pamphlets, printing and publicity, postage, telephone and salaries.

Farrell questioned the salary items and the group said they would be able to hire only one work-study employe, providing the ASUO executive furnishes a secretary again.

A representative of campus co-ops testified in behalf of the housing office as why the co-ops should be included in the budget. The co-ops, said the member, are suffering from a shortage of occupants this year and attribute it to a lack of publicity. The co-ops want the money to conduct a more efficient publicity program this year.

Similarly, a representative from the Eugene-Springfield Tenants' Union also testified.

It was explained that the tenants' union is more effective for students because it has a broader political base and many different types of people. Therefore, the group has more power and strength in dealing with landlords than the off-campus housing office.

In the hearing, Marquis stressed the *Emerald's* "significant strides toward stability" over the last few months, pointing out that the *Emerald* newspaper has not lost money. He attributed the *Emerald's* present shaky financial state to some previous poor decisions, and listed significant changes that the *Emerald* has gone through to compensate.

OSPIRG supporters filled the room as the three IFC members heard the testimony. In recommending the \$1,200 cut, the executive recognized the value of OSPIRG, but recommended that the group "increase the awareness and participation of University students in OSPIRG." Neil Robblee, director of OSPIRG, called the group a "zero growth project," stressing that the need for increased funding was due mainly to the rising cost of living.

In answer to questions by the IFC members, OSPIRG representatives mapped out the group's plans for increasing student awareness, and stated that any cuts made in their budget would probably result in a decreased number of staff, fewer interns in the program or fewer newsletters put out by OSPIRG.

The IFC will make its own budget recommendations at a later date.

BY JACKMAN WILSON
Of the Emerald

The results of an ASUO student survey on a broad range of topics from gay rights to parking rights are compiled and ready to be put to use.

The survey was conducted Winter term by Masters of Business Administration (MBA), an independent consulting firm, at a cost of \$1,500.

The results of the survey are being used as an index of student opinion on issues before the state Legislature, the University administration and the student government.

The demographic makeup of the 335 students who responded to the mailed questionnaires corresponds closely with the demography of the University as a whole, according to John Eliassen, ASUO Administrative Assistant for Special Projects, who worked in liaison with MBA on the survey.

"The results which will have the greatest impact are the results of the question on the lettuce issue," Eliassen said. According to the survey, 64.4 per cent of the respondents felt both Teamster and United Farmworker lettuce should be sold on campus when available, and 20.1 per cent felt United Farmworker lettuce was the only lettuce that should be allowed. Only 1.7 per cent felt Teamster lettuce should be the only lettuce on campus.

Eliassen said the most surprising data showed that students from lower income families were willing to tolerate a greater increase in tuition than students from more affluent backgrounds. "In most cases student with lower incomes are already working or have worked. This information shows they are more committed to their education," Eliassen said.

Other results of the survey showed that:

—53.9 per cent of the respondents favored collective bargaining at the University, while only 17.4 per cent were opposed.

—59.7 per cent of the sample felt the library was an adequate resource for their purposes, 33.9 per cent felt it was not.

—12.8 per cent of the students evaluated the quality of education for the money paid at the University to be improved over the last two years. Another 47.7 per cent said there had been no change, and 39.5 per cent saw a decline in quality.

—68.5 per cent favored the current grading system, while 19.6 per cent did not.

—64.1 per cent of the respondents claimed they spend no money at all on marijuana. Only 13.3 per cent said they spend over \$50 a year.

—60.9 per cent said they supported a gay rights bill for equal job and housing opportunities, 19.5 per cent were opposed to such a measure.

—67.3 per cent of the sample was in favor of lowering the drinking age, 28.9 per cent were against it.

—Nearly everyone had an opinion on nuclear development. Six per cent favored extensive development, and 40.1 per cent wanted cautious development. 24.7 per cent were against all nuclear development, and 24.1 per cent favored a moratorium on nuclear projects.

—77.3 per cent of the sample felt population growth in Oregon was inevitable, 19.4 per cent believed it was not.

—66.7 per cent of the out-of-staters polled said they could no longer attend this University if tuition were to go up 15 per cent. 48.5 per cent of the in-state students made similar statements.

—Only 14.5 per cent of the students surveyed said they favored elimination of on-street parking surrounding the University; 72.8 per cent said they did not.

—22.5 per cent of the respondents felt incidental fees should subsidize 100 per cent of the student admission price to athletic events, while 38.6 per cent were opposed to any subsidy whatsoever. 38.9 per cent felt the present system of a 50 per cent subsidy was fair.

—32.2 favored an increase in writing composition requirements; 47.9 disagreed.

—72.3 per cent of the sample opposed an extension of field-burning past 1975, 17.1 per cent favored an extension.

—A surprisingly high number of students, 46.3 per cent, said they voted in student government elections. Curiously, .9 per cent said they had no opinion on whether they voted or not.

... Friday

Chairer Jane Aiken was the only Incidental Fees Committee member present to hear the testimony of the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Company Friday night. Later that evening, two more members showed for the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) hearing, the only other scheduled for Friday.

The ASUO executive recommended no cut for the *Emerald*, keeping its request for subscription fees at the present level of \$54,560. The OSPIRG budget was recommended to be cut from \$45,000 to 43,800.

The executive, while approving the *Emerald's* budget request also gave the *Emerald* board an option to pay off a \$20,000 *Emerald* loan given earlier this year by the ASUO. Josh Marquis, chairer of the *Emerald* board, was favorable to the proposition that \$12,500 of the loan be given to the *Emerald* as an equity contribution. The additional \$7,500 was paid off over the next two years in an advertising contract between the ASUO and the *Emerald*.

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