

\$1.5 million spent annually

IFC makes effort to inform students

In an attempt to better inform students about the \$31 paid each term in incidental fees, the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) inserted an information card in every registration packet this term.

"I would guess that less than 10 percent of the current student body understands any relationship between tuition and the students having control over part of that money," says IFC member Scott Bassett, who instigated the card.

Yet, Bassett is optimistic about the effect the card may have.

He says, "The fundamental assumption underlying this project is that students are not apathetic, but they are ignorant. Students cannot be called apathetic if they are not informed."

Through the card, students will perhaps find out student government "has some power and is worth being involved in," Bassett says.

The card details the amount of money taken in incidental fees yearly, \$1,458,264.78, and how the money is spent. The IFC and ASUO executive determine which groups should get how much. Their decisions are then subject to the University president's judgment.

In the 1977-78 academic year, the EMU obtained the most IFC support, \$512,579, or 35.2 percent of the total funds. EMU programs were next in line with 18.6 percent followed by intercollegiate athletics with 15.2 percent of incidental fees.

IFC members have already been through one set of budget hearings to determine next year's fee allocations. In the first set members decided on appropriate goals for each group requesting money. The next hearings, scheduled for April, will set actual dollar amounts for the groups.

Oregon law forces fee assessment

Like it or not, students are stuck with paying incidental fees.

Oregon statute 351.070 delegates the authority to assess student incidental fees to the State Board of Higher Education, which in turn gives that power to each University president, who then has the option of allowing a student group to assess the fee and determine where the money should go.

The statute says the "State Board of Higher Education prescribes incidental fees for programs under the supervision or control of the board, found by the board, upon its own motivation whereupon recognition of the recognized student governments of the institutions concerned."

Last term a student called the IFC asking for a voucher to waive the incidental fee since he didn't participate in any of the fee-funded groups. The student was referred to Office of Student Advocacy and his request was denied under the statute.

Students in California are testing the validity of student fees in one school. About 50 students filed suits against one University of California School in small claims court to recover their fees.

The suits, filed in mid-March, claim the university does not have the right to collect the money. Students there pay \$12.50 in fees each quarter. Earlier, the students sent petitions to the university chancellor demanding the return of their money, but the petitions were denied.

There may be some hope for the California students, but this University is faced with the \$31 fee every term by law. Take heart; at least the University of Oregon fee is the lowest of the seven major Oregon colleges and universities.

Stories by
CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Budgetary ills plague colleges, explains Boyd

SALEM — University Pres. William Boyd says budget problems have replaced student rebellions as the top problem facing college leaders. Boyd spoke Monday before the Salem Rotarian Women.

He said an enrollment decline is causing closure of the UO School of Librarianship after next summer and forcing the budget of the College of Community Services to be cut in half.

While the number of teachers drops off, the number of administrators rises, Boyd said.

With government regulation increasing on campuses, so does the number of regulators.

"Sometimes I think they multiply like coathangers in a dark closet," he said. "Every time you look there are more of them."

"Even when Gov. Bob Straub declared war on forms, each campus came up with a commisar of forms. It's hard not to become cynical about the whole process."

Boyd said tuition and state appropriations will have to be increased. But he said he advocated higher tuition only if it is accompanied by increased aid to lower and middle income students.

The University's budget process should be more open to the public, he said. This spring, Boyd said, Eugene area legislators will meet with University officials to go over the University's \$41.8 million budget.

"I submit that society can't afford to lose its love affair with higher education," Boyd said.



1978-79

Cultural Forum Position Openings

One coordinator will be selected for each of the following areas:

- Popular Concerts
- Contemporary Issues
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Heritage Music
- Film and Literature

Pick up applications forms in the Program Office, Suite 2, EMU
(Deadline for applying is 5 pm, April 14, 1978)

These are non-salaried positions.