

GTFF eyes new contract

By Keli Osborn
Of the Emerald

It may seem a little soon for members of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation to be talking about another contract with the University—they signed their first about two months ago—but they did just that in a meeting Wednesday night.

About 20 union members met in the EMU Forum to discuss possible issues for the next contract which goes into effect Sept. 15. Negotiations for it begin this spring, and GTFF Pres. Charlie Aker urged those interested in setting priorities to contact the union office.

The GTFF also approved two motions offered by its executive board. With the first, the group voted to support efforts by the ASUO and Oregon Student Lobby to have the Legislature amend Oregon statute to allow student course evaluations to be made public.

One member called it a "good issue," adding that the GTFF should seek to align itself with students whenever possible.

Union members chose to again side with People for Southern African Freedom by withdrawing its accounts from the U.S. National Bank and attempting to place them in financial institutions not doing business in southern Africa.

The bank is Oregon's largest, and has made significant loans for military and industrial development in southern Africa, Aker said. The group's action will be part of a large-scale withdrawal campaign coordinated by PSAF in April.

The GTFF is currently a plaintiff in a suit to force divestment of southern Africa-related stocks from higher education's endowment fund.

Bill Fritz, a representative from the Oregon Federation of Teachers, gave union members an update on lobbying efforts in the Legislature.

Fritz described two bills of major concern to the GTFF—both dealing with the problem of providing health care for part-time state employees.

Neither has yet come to the floor, according to Fritz. He alerted the group to other bills that could have a negative impact on the union. One, put forth by the state's Executive Personnel Division, would allow public employees to bargain over wages and working benefits, but not working conditions, he said.

Members also heard a report from a Childcare Commission representative, who said the commission is now developing a report on what the University should do about providing child care.

Today's IFC Budget Hearings:

3:30 Switchboard
4:00 Survival Center
4:30 Office of Student Advocacy
5:00 Repertory Dancers
5:30 Native American Student Union
6:30 ALERT!

Monday's agenda will include ESCAPE, Sailing Club, Incidental Fee Committee and People and the Oregon Coast.

All students are invited to participate in these hearings. It's \$100 of your money!

IFC, SUAB quarrel over funding

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

A power-struggle has been brewing behind the scenes among the branches of student government since the Incidental Fee Committee and the ASUO executive publically criticized the performance of the Student University Affairs Board early last month.

SUAB members now feel that the IFC has too much control over the board as far as their budget and goals are concerned, says Gary McMahon, SUAB chair. "We want to balance out the power, at least make it more equal."

SUAB is considering a constitutional amendment for the Spring term ASUO ballot that would give SUAB veto power over IFC financial decisions, "at least over our own budget," says McMahon.

Currently, ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera can veto IFC budget decisions, but the IFC can overturn an executive veto with a 5-2 vote. The ASUO executive had its goals approved by the IFC last week.

SUAB's basic goals of student representation and maintenance of the grievance center were approved by the IFC with some questions concerning SUAB's effectiveness.

In the meantime, SUAB has begun to redefine its goals and re-writing its bylaws to more accurately reflect the type of time commitment involved in the job, says McMahon.

"We want to write out specific office hours for SUAB members,



yet still maintain open lines of communication with students." McMahon adds that office hours in Suite 4 have proved to be an ineffective way to maintain contact with the students members represent.

Alternatives for eliciting more student input might include having members serve more hours in the Information Grievance Center, requiring monthly reports from SUAB—recommended students on student-faculty committees, and having periodical SUAB-run polls on student opinion, says McMahon.

The office hour controversy is only one aspect of SUAB's visibility problem and performance record, says IFC chair Janet Eggleston. "They need to be transfused with energy," she says of the Board. "They need dynamic leadership."

Eggleston says that there are people on the IFC who want to cut off funds for SUAB. "They think it's a four-year-old experiment that's failed."

There's a definite case for

SUAB, she adds. "I know they won't zero-fund it."

Herrera has said he will veto any move by the IFC to cut off funds for SUAB.

Student government at the University used to be run on the student senate model, which Eggleston says doesn't work.

"We have an excellent structure now," she says. "Why SUAB doesn't work is beyond me."

All branches of student government have the same power, says Eggleston. "Our (IFC's) power is limited to money." Sending budgets through SUAB would be "crazy," she says, adding that would be a move back to a cumbersome Senate system. "That's what we've moved away from."

SUAB can make sure that things are run differently next year, says Eggleston. "We don't have that." She adds, "You've got to have people who care, people who are willing to work to make SUAB effective."

"We obviously have more power," she adds, "in that money is the key to power. But they

(SUAB) have the power to change the structure."

The possibility of not funding SUAB has brought the balance of power issue to the fore, says McMahon. Their reasons for not funding SUAB would be based on the assumption that SUAB members are "volunteer" with a stipend to cover expenses, he says. However, he adds, the time commitment involved in SUAB membership "greatly outweighs the volunteer status."

The quality of such "volunteer" would decrease with no funding, says McMahon. "The turnover rate is high as it is." Ten board members already have to look for outside work to make ends meet, he says.

SUAB is not a "separate and equal branch of student government under the present system, says McMahon. "We would be more autonomous by having a greater degree of control over our budget," he says, by having some system of appeal.

The IFC can ask for salary increases, says McMahon, which the ASUO executive can veto. The IFC can then override the executive veto. "Balance of power, you ask?" says McMahon.

ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera says he plans to have weekly "cabinet" meetings with the heads of the IFC, SUAB and the EMU board to facilitate better communications among the branches of student government. Overall, Herrera feels that student government "has made advances, especially in reaching students."

IFC endorses goals for six, rejects one

The Incidental Fee Committee gave approval to the goals of six of seven groups that came before it Wednesday, delaying only the goal of the ASUO Comptroller.

Goals approved by IFC included the Women's Referral and Resources Service and the Women's Symposium. While both passed without opposition, there was strong feeling from members of the committee and the two groups that some continuity was needed to tie the various women's organizations together.

Committee member Janet Eggleston proposed that a meeting of the directors of the women's organizations be arranged to work on duplication between groups.

The two groups present expressed approval of a meeting. Elizabeth Yasuda of the Women's



Symposium echoed Eggleston's statement, adding that this would help to reorganize the programs into a strong unit.

Discussion of the Food-Op goals was kept short as the ASUO executive office and the IFC ex-

pressed approval. Brad Noren of the Food-Op stated that the organization was no longer controversial, and is now in the business of providing basic foods at reduced costs. Eggleston reversed her previous position urging

that the IFC approve the goals. A 6-0 vote re-inforced the position.

The goals of the Student University Affairs Board were approved unanimously with some questioning while the goal of the Information and Grievance Center passed without question.

IFC member Dusty Rhodes expressed concern over payments to non-officer members, especially about the responsibilities of their jobs. Gary McMahon of SUAB, reported that members perform required duties as well as serving an optional committees.

The goals of Off-Campus Housing were approved 6-0.

Today the IFC will review the goals of Switchboard, the Survival Center, the Office of Student Advocacy, and the Native American Student Union.



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