

Committee gives money to groups

By GINGER BARNES
Of the Emerald

Charged with the unenviable task of doling out \$2.3 million to more than 60 student programs, the University's Incidental Fee Committee still operates as the most independent fee committee among state colleges and universities.

The seven-member committee, composed entirely of students, is responsible for awarding money to such varied student programs as the Hawaii Club, Repertory Dancers, the Psychology Club and the Amazon Childcare Center.

Incidental fees this year — determined by the budgeting process completed last spring — amount to \$44 per term, down \$6 per term from last year.

Fees declined partly because the IFC convinced the University's administration and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education — who approve the level of incidental fees — that students should not be required to subsidize the athletic department by paying the full price for athletic tickets for events they might not attend. Instead, students will pay half price for the tickets they choose to buy.

Of the \$2.3 million in incidental fees, \$1.1 million will

go to the EMU for administration and programs, \$544,000 will go to the athletic department and \$499,000 will be allotted to ASUO programs.

A small unallocated reserve of approximately \$5,000 gives the IFC some flexibility to respond to special requests, says IFC member Karsten Rasmussen.

It's not always easy to determine which programs should receive incidental fee support, Rasmussen says, because there is no set IFC policy to determine which groups exist outside the "cultural and physical" program definition the IFC applies to groups it funds.

However, religious activities are not funded by the IFC, nor are strictly academic programs that receive financial support from the general fund, he says.

Incidental fees generally are not given to be used as start-up funds, Rasmussen says, because the committee is reluctant to award money to a group that has not proved its "viability and ability to use the money effectively and efficiently."

Students who want to find out more about incidental fees and the IFC process are invited to attend IFC meetings, Rasmussen says.

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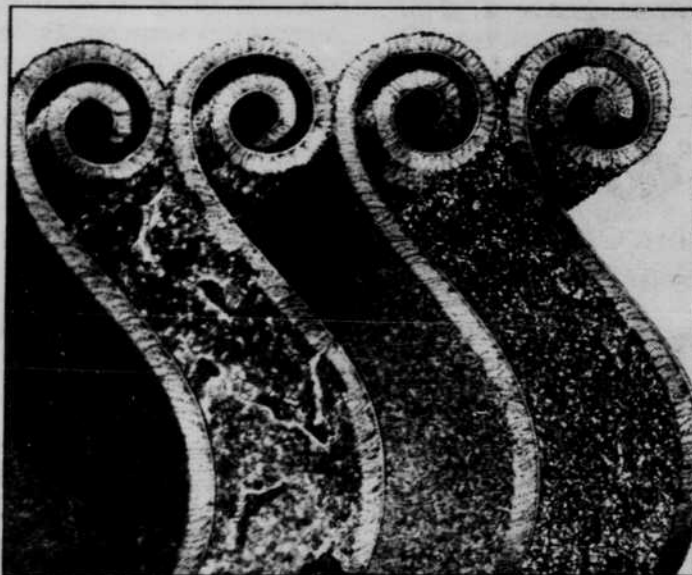
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