

opinion

On the IFC

The Incidental Fee Committee is in the process of their annual budget hearings to decide the fate of next year's ASUO programs.

The Incidental Fee Committee is also in the middle of a series of resignations and management turmoil.

Friday Bart Hill resigned as chairer; he will remain as a member on the committee. Today, Rick Braun resigned from the committee. This leaves six members without a leader to determine funding for more than 80 student groups.

Hill's resignation is a statement on the problems that fraught the IFC — some personnel and other structural.

To outline the structure: The Incidental Fee Committee is in charge of the more than \$2 million that students pay each year as fees. The members are elected each year by the student body. They are responsible for reviewing and determining the budget for various student groups, including the EMU and the Athletic Department.

Incidental fees were set up to be spent on "activities that develop physical or cultural aspects of student life," according to written IFC guidelines.

The committee determines allocations after receiving budget recommendations from the ASUO president (who submits an entire balanced budget) and from recommendations by individual IFC members or "tag persons" based on their knowledge of each group.

With more than \$2 million of the students' money and the responsibility for most of the EMU, the athletic department, student government and entertainment of the student body, the IFC needs to be a representative and well-organized group.

Though it appears that most members of the IFC have worked hard to fulfill their duties, the group is racked by internal conflicts.

The seven members are elected by the 10 percent of the student body that vote. This translates to a committee of special interest representatives — not necessarily a bad thing if they keep in mind that ASUO programs are for the "associated" student body.

However, this does not seem to be what is happening. The group has split into two groups: Greeks and Students for a Progressive Agenda (SPA).

Rick Braun, endorsed by the Greek-law student ticket, finally stepped down after surviving a vote to dismiss him. According to Hill, Braun had not kept office hours or fulfilled his duties for the last three weeks.

Personnel problems have kept the group from working together — a necessary thing for compromise votes.

With the growth of the number of groups sponsored and the size of the budget, the committee also has become over-extended.

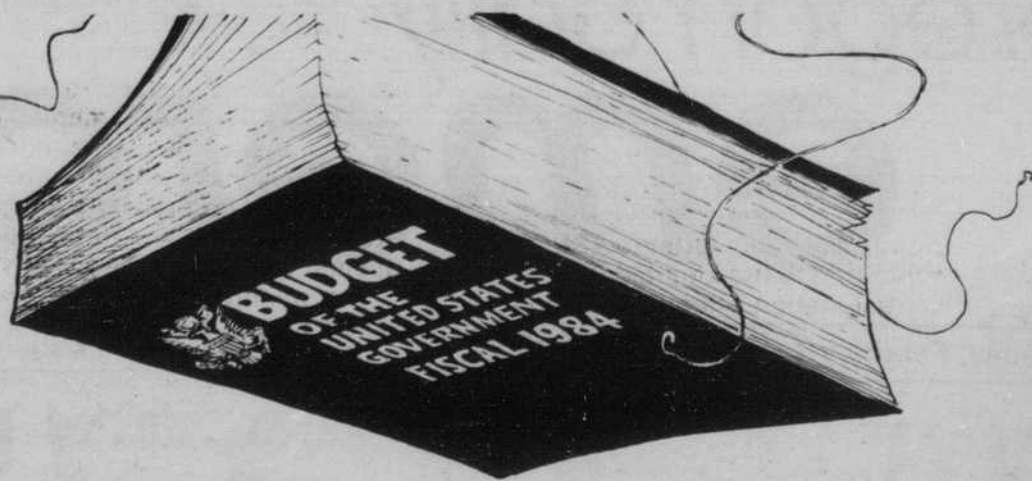
Braun's resignation, though good for the cohesion of the committee, puts that much more burden on the remaining six members. The hearings, restarted today, will be under the temporary direction of Betzy Fry and won't include member Jeff Nudelman who is on vacation.

ASUO Pres. C.J. Balfe and the Student University Affairs Board need to quickly replace Braun for a smooth transition for the committee and the ability of the group to vote for a new chairer (contingent upon having seven members).

If the number of funded student groups continues to grow (four new groups this year), the IFC should increase its size to nine members. Some members have suggested this themselves. A larger committee would decrease the power of individual members, lessen the workload and increase the representativeness of the group.

To further increase the stability of the group, the committee should look into the feasibility of a professional auditor or independent financial whiz to draw up a balanced budget. This would decrease their dependence on the ASUO recommendations and increase their diversity of opinion.

Last, but not least, the IFC, needs to adhere to their original intention of funding groups that are "physical," such as the EMU building, and "cultural," such as University theatre. These organizations aid the most students.



CARLSON
THIS AMERICA HERE: CHANGING



IM SORRY, BUT
THIS IS NOT A
POLICY. THIS IS
MERELY A SOCIAL
CONTRACT!

'OUR INSURANCE COMPANY? THE GOOD OL' U.S. OF A., OF COURSE — WHY DO YOU ASK?'

letters

Deserving

I must respond to a letter to the editor published in the Feb. 1 Emerald. The group that submitted the letter is obviously misinformed and deserves a rebuttal.

The letter first states the the Emerald employs a "mostly non-student administration." The Emerald Board of Directors hires all department heads. These positions are open to the entire community. However, the editor's position must be filled by a student.

Regarding employees, I work for the Emerald, and I'm a student. Over 80 percent of the Emerald's staff are students. I believe that fact can maintain our campus-orientated definition.

I encourage any member of the group that submitted this letter to apply for one of the administrative positions that is occupied by a non-student (the positions are open to students). After you find the amount of time that the position requires, I believe that you will discover the reason that they are filled primarily by non-students.

Secondly, the letter states that the Emerald overprints 2,000 issues daily. I think that just about any student on campus can testify that the only places you can find Emeralds after about two o'clock in the afternoon is on the floor in various restrooms and classrooms about campus.

Let me add that your cries about advertising rate increases are those of a spoiled

brat.

All sanctioned ASUO and EMU organizations are entitled to a blanket advertising rate that is lower than the rates the Emerald offers its most consistent commercial advertisers.

Next, the Emerald's budget was cut from \$92,000 to \$80,000 this year. That's an 11.6 percent hack. Two organizations that cosigned this letter were the ASUO, MECHA and the Asian American Student Union. These two organizations received only 3.4 and 1.4 percent budget slashes respectively.

We're in this recession together; so let's share some discomfort.

Vince Brown
senior, journalism,
English

Resigned

An open letter to C.J. Balfe

Last week the Constitution Committee of the ASUO ruled Bart Hill's attempt to remove me from the Incidental Fee Committee was illegal. The Constitution Committee directed the Incidental Fee Committee to follow its own procedure for removal of a member. Mr. Hill convened the IFC and moved the committee to remove me. The committee declined to do so.

At this writing I am a full member of the Incidental Fee Committee. However, it is my understanding that the decision of the IFC and the Constitution Committee aside, you intend to reopen this en-

tire affair personally by instituting yet another appeal to the Constitution Committee to remove me from office. Although I am flattered that the President of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon is willing to devote this much time to me, I must decline your invitation.

I talked to Bart Hill a couple of days after the IFC vote and we agreed that fences could be mended and that I would continue to serve. But I can't serve very effectively with a president who says, "If I could do something about Braun I would." You might slam a car door on my hand.

I resign my position on the IFC effective immediately. I resign confident that you will not choose as my replacement a foreign student, graduate student, a minority student, a handicapped student, or a woman. I have been wrong before, but you are a pretty predictable fellow. Prove me wrong C.J.. Act in good faith.

Rick Braun

Column

I love your new column. It's different; it's new; it's printed often, and it contains hard cold facts — I hope.

Your "correction column" underscores the need for your reporters to pay attention to what is going on. Aside from completely destroying your credibility as a newspaper that reports accurately, they are giving you a bad name.

Dave Lund
junior, education

oregon daily emerald

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letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University Community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned into the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turn" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.