

Davis wonders where the line is drawn if a non-student is allowed to sit on the board and give input. She believes the administration and faculty have a powerful influence on the IFC regardless of whether they vote or not.

"I think there is a real tendency for the administration to watch the students with an eagle eye," Davis says. "I think they are unsure of the students' ability to handle the budgeting process...they haven't given the students the opportunity so they don't know."

The OSL was formed in 1975 due to a growing concern about student issues. Student presidents in the state higher education system then formed the board and elected its directors. In addition, three staff positions were created. This year the staff is made up of Daut; Sherry Oeser, executive assistant; and Mary Nass, administrative assistant.

OSL has been on shaky ground in the past for various reasons, including student apathy, differing interests of the participating colleges, and an overall lack of time, says Cress. Some of the larger schools, such

as the University and Portland State University, have considered dropping out of the program because the members felt they should have more lobbying time as they paid more into the OSL. Under the current by-laws, each school pays an apportionate amount of money into the OSL according to number of students in that school. But so far, this hasn't been a problem this year, he says.

This year the OSL is going through a major overhaul to strengthen its power. The board will be increased to 14 members to allow another delegate from each school to participate. Rebecca Roby has been chosen by the ASUO as the University's second delegate. The organization's focus will be to get more students involved, and during the voter registration drives this fall OSL members will try to organize lobbying parties.


Davis says that the revision of the by-laws and revamping of the board will "create a better way for more students to get involved in OSL and hopefully build a grassroots organization on each one of the campuses."

On the practical side, Davis admits it is difficult for students

to lobby.

"It's kind of intimidating," she says. "It's great to come and talk about it, but going up there (Salem) and marching down the halls and into someone's office is another thing."

Although lobbying takes time, she says it is just as important and probably as effective to write letters. It is also important that if students do write or lobby, the information must be consistent and have a solid base, she adds.



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