

Fee committee member assails Commentator funding measure

The ballot measure to revoke the Incidental Fee Committee's \$6,800 allocation to the Oregon Commentator violates students' constitutional rights, says a committee member.

Vice Chair Darris Rowell, one of four IFC members to approve funding for the paper last month, calls the measure a "tyranny of the majority" and says the measure abridges students' privilege of having fee committee members, whom they elected, distribute funds on their behalf.

"When we (IFC members) decide to allocate money, we do it on behalf of the student body and for each student individually affected," Rowell says. "This individual is being deprived of his rights as he voted in an election to give his voice to another student."

"This doesn't have anything to do with my views of the Commentator per se," Rowell says. "This has to do with my view of ballot measures that reduce funding retroactively."

Rowell, who is seeking clarification of the ASUO Constitution, points out that students can vote to increase fees already set by the IFC because there is a corresponding increase in services that is spread equally among all student voters. But it is wrong to decrease fees as this would deprive the student of services, and his or

her loss would go uncompensated because the savings would be spread among all students, he says.

Other IFC members disagree with Rowell's proposal, however.

"Philosophically, I have problems with the Commentator, but I think the ballot measure to zero fund the Commentator is constitutional," says IFC Chair Bob Mead.

Although Mead says students should have a method of recourse against IFC decisions they strongly oppose, he admits there are risks involved.

"I think it's in their rights, but I think it's a very dangerous weapon," Mead says. "There's nothing stopping a student to run a ballot measure against groups that he or she may find objectionable."

Mead believes the Commentator will fail at the polls later this month.

"I think it will go down in flames, maybe not as bad as last year, but it (the Commentator) will lose," Mead adds.

The original petition, initiated by Dave Herman of Catalyst Films, received 1,588 signatures, more than twice the number needed to put it on the ballot. Herman claimed last month that he was libeled by a Commentator article.

Congress considering aid cuts

Emerald and wire service reports

Although the Senate Budget Committee rejected several of President Ronald Reagan's proposed reductions in federal financial aid last month, there is still a possibility that some programs will be cut, said Ed Vignoul, financial aid director.

The Senate committee voted against Reagan's proposal to limit students to a total of \$4,000 in federal aid a year and rejected his plan to cut Pell Grants by \$700 million, but it voted to reduce the Guaranteed Student Loan program by \$200 million in fiscal year 1986.

Members of Congress pro-

bably won't support all of Reagan's proposed cuts in financial aid, but there is support for decreases in aid to some federal programs, Vignoul said. Congress is expected to vote on the matter later this month, he added.

"This is the most critical time, and so we can't back off now," Vignoul said.

Rep. Jim Weaver and Sen. Mark Hatfield strongly support maintaining current federal aid to students, but Sen. Bob Packwood is wavering on the issue, Vignoul said. Students should continue to contact Oregon legislators and explain how the proposed cuts would

affect them, he said.

In a related matter, members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities announced Wednesday that Reagan's proposed budget cuts would reduce federal aid for 250,000 students from poor families by an average of \$1,160. Some 500,000 students with family incomes below \$25,000 would lose some aid, including 237,000 with income below \$6,000, the group said.

"The Reagan administration's claim that the cuts would affect only middle-income students... is false," said Allan Ostar, president of the group.

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