

# Athletic department seeks increased funding

By Julie Shippen  
Of the Emerald

Officials from the University's athletic department met with the Incidental Fee Committee on Monday evening to begin the annual string of budget hearings on the department's sizable and often controversial request for next year.

While the meeting promptly concluded at the scheduled two-hour mark, the groups appeared to have settled little about the department and its proposed increases. In fact, the

budget's fate became even further confused after discussion on an upcoming ASUO ballot measure and its effect on the budget's outcome if passed in this week's general elections.

This year the department is seeking approximately \$847,124 in incidental fees, which represents a 17 percent increase over last year's allocation. While the figure may be considerable, the money is necessary to keep the University's athletic programs "competitive" in the Pacific 10

Conference, said Chris Voelz, assistant athletic director.

"It wasn't just a figure that we came up with," Voelz said. The department needs the funds to recruit talented athletes and coaches to the University. "It's a function of the market," she added.

Of the total requested amount, \$727,124 in direct funds are sought to fund 50 percent of the department's budget for non-revenue sports, such as men's golf or women's volleyball, and the remaining

\$120,000 is designated for ticket subsidy.

"The figures attached in the budget breakdown are actual operational figures — certainly not a wish list," Voelz said in a memo to the committee. "They concurrently reflect the amount... we feel is a fair and appropriate request to be made of the student body at the University of Oregon."

The request's increases reflect cost of living hikes, equity advancements, the women's administrative budget and opera-

tional changes mandated by safety precautions.

Also noted is the inclusion of track and field into the "non-revenue" category. Voelz pointed out to the committee that while track and field may be popular at the University, the department still loses \$400,000 each year on the events.

John Dreeszen, ASUO finance coordinator, raised the issue of the department's yearly "phenomenal" increases.

Voelz believes, however, that after this year the department's budget should balance out and will require only a 6 percent or 7 percent increase each year to keep up with regular inflation.

The committee decided to continue the hearing today and possibly Wednesday, despite confusion as to whether or not the committee can approve an increase of more than 7 percent if Ballot Measure 5 passes Thursday.

IFC member Adam Apalategui, initiator of the measure to limit the athletic department's budget increases to 7 percent each year, said the measure would take effect immediately upon voter approval. Members were still uncertain, however, if the limitation would apply to an allocation made before the election.

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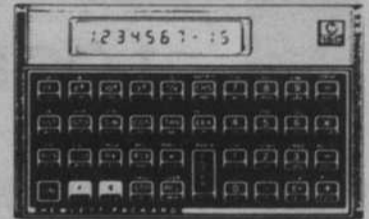
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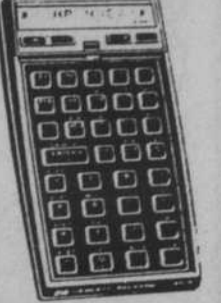


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