

IFC approves Office of Legal Services goals statement

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee, by a 5-1 vote, approved the goals statement presented by the ASUO Office of Legal Services last week.

Legal services attorney Karsten Rasmussen presented six individual goals as well as a list of four findings of fact.

The goals presented were: to provide legal services that meet the needs of the University student community; to support both diversity and retention at the University; to provide general legal advice that will assist student government and ASUO programs to operate in a

professional manner; to provide a preventative legal program to ensure the legal health of the student community; to provide a law office that meets ethical standards of the legal profession; and to provide jobs for students when feasible.

Pertaining to the third goal, to assist the ASUO and student government, Rasmussen said the office is sometimes limited by conflict-of-interest problems, such as being asked to represent a student-against-student dispute, which the office is not permitted to do.

However, the office is able to represent the ASUO on matters such as employment contracts,

use of incidental fees and contracts for services.

When asked by IFC member Ron Munion whether he would feel obligated by his contract to represent the ASUO in litigation against a state agency, Rasmussen gave a cautious, "Yes."

While Rasmussen considers the ASUO Executive his contracting party, it is unclear whether the ASUO can have its own lawyer.

"That is an issue that in my mind is far from being definitively decided," he said.

According to Rasmussen, there are conflicting opinions from the attorney general about

whether the ASUO has a right to an attorney.

Rasmussen said about 75 percent of what he does involves criminal misdemeanor advice, landlord/tenant disputes and family law matters. He said his office keeps students, who otherwise might drop out, in school — especially those who might not be able to afford professional legal help.

About 45 to 50 students visit the legal services office a week, Rasmussen said. He said when students as a group have access to full legal representation, community landlords and creditors learn that students are not vulnerable to exploitation.

The IFC also approved the office's four findings of fact: The legal services program promotes the cultural and physical development of students; the office is available to every fee-paying student and benefits all students by providing for the legal health of the student community; full legal representation, including representation in court, are critical services that serve the twin goals of diversity and retention; and student government that is well informed and represented as to its legal rights and responsibilities assists in the cultural and physical development of students and is in the interest of the students at the University.

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Emerald editor receives award

Michael Drummond, co-editorial page editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald, has won eighth place in the Journalism Awards Program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Drummond received a \$300 scholarship for an editorial that appeared in the Nov. 13 issue of the Emerald. The School of Journalism received a matching \$300 grant.

"Not only am I happy for myself for getting recognition, I'm happy for the journalism

school because it will be recognized as a quality place to study journalism," Drummond said.

The Journalism Awards Program consists of six monthly contests and one photojournalism competition. Eighty-eight accredited journalism schools in the United States are currently participating in the program. Last month, Emerald Managing Editor Lucinda Dillon won a ninth place award for her article on witchcraft published in the Emerald's Spectrum magazine Oct. 30.



Michael Drummond

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Fund allocation to accommodate 15,030 FTE students, and required the University to limit its enrollment at that number.

However, the corridor policy requires an institution to exceed its corridor number for two consecutive years before a new corridor is established. The policy thus assumes that enrollment will increase by fewer than 500 FTE students in any one year.

The governor's budget sticks to the two-year policy requirement and does not account for the dramatic, one-year increase of 683 FTE students at the

University this fall, which was credited to an extensive recruiting campaign.

The governor's budget calls for the University to be funded at a level established by an enrollment projection of 14,440 FTE students in 1987-88.

But Sunderland is optimistic that some additional funds will be allocated to the University. Because the budget was written before fall-term enrollment figures were compiled, "who was to know how many students we would have fall term?" he asked.

Davis reported that the

budget includes a total of \$21 million in faculty salary increases, including \$10 million for merit increases and about \$11 million to provide 2 percent raises for all state employees each year of the biennium.

The State Board had requested \$47 million for faculty salary raises, and Davis said \$37 million is needed just to maintain Oregon's already low ranking compared to faculty salaries in other states.

"We came out with a lot of zeros," Davis said of the governor's budget.

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