

Student groups may obtain funding via ballot measure

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Most student groups go before the Incidental Fee Committee to obtain funding, but there are other options.

The Oregon Marching Band, for example, decided it would go to the student ballot when the IFC denied its full funding request. Student groups can pursue placing a measure on the ballot presented to students in the spring general elections.

Although relatively few groups go before the voters for additional funding, it is one option for groups that are unhappy with the level of IFC-allocated funds, said ASUO Finance Coordinator John Thoma.

Among other options, Thoma said a group can appeal an IFC decision during appeal hearings in April, or it can ask for more money through a special request later in the year.

A group can get on the ballot in one of three ways: It can be

placed on the ballot by the IFC or the ASUO Executive, or it can collect 5 percent of the student body's signatures.

The Constitution Court must approve a ballot measure's wording.

The Marching Band, which has doubled in size in the last three years, requested a 132 percent increase in funding. At its budget hearing, the IFC agreed the band needs the increase but was uncomfortable approving such a large increase without direct student approval.

The IFC instead gave the Marching Band a 12 percent increase and recommended it ask the students for the rest.

The Oregon Daily Emerald is currently the only group that goes directly to the ballot on a regular basis. And it does this for several reasons, said Emerald Editor Michelle Brenne.

Because IFC members change every year, it is easier to go to the ballot than worry about

year-to-year changes in the IFC's attitude toward the Emerald, Brenne said. She added the IFC has been hostile toward the Emerald in past years.

Going to the ballot also monitors student support for the publication, giving students the opportunity to say if they want to pay the \$1.99 a student a term subscription price, she said.

Although this is the fourth year the Emerald will go to the ballot, Brenne said she got the impression that the IFC and the ASUO would have been a lot happier if she had decided to go through the IFC budget hearings.

IFC Chairwoman Jodie Mooney said the ASUO would prefer that all groups go before the IFC, but respects groups' right to go on the ballot.

"I am not in opposition of groups going to the ballot. I have the utmost respect for the democratic process, but I also

have the utmost respect for the fee committee process," she said, adding that the fee committee can more responsibly allocate funds than the ballot.

"I think it is unfortunate that Michelle (Brenne) has that attitude, but I also think it's probably justified," Mooney said. "Because I think in the past, there has been reason for her to be a bit discouraged by the process."

Thoma and Mooney both see disadvantages to going before the student body to gain funding.

"When a group goes on the ballot, it is taking more chances than it would if the group went before the IFC," Thoma said.

"The IFC understands the bigger picture of the entire budget process. If a group decides to go to the ballot — and not more than 2,000 students vote anyway — a lot of those students may not know much about the group, and the vote could become an arbitrary

popularity contest."

Mooney concurred. "The danger, as I see it, is when you get a lot of groups going to the ballot, what ultimately could happen is that groups that serve minority interests on campus could be foreclosed from receiving funding," she said.

She added that IFC members carefully consider smaller groups' interests.

The IFC has existed in its current form since 1973. For the two years before that, the Student Senate had the power to approve groups' proposed budgets and make recommendations to the University president's office.

"The IFC is elected as a representative group of the student body," Mooney said. "The committee scrutinizes every budget proposal and has a clearer picture of what is going on than the average 'Joe Student.'"

Group calls for men's studies

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

Women's studies has long been an established and respected department at the University. Since the early 1970s when the program was created, it has given students the chance to explore the accomplishments of women and the oppression of women

throughout history.

Now a group of about 100 professors nationwide calling themselves the Men's Studies Association would like to see a men's studies program established at universities across the nation.

Martin Acker, University counseling psychology professor and co-chairman of the association, said men's issues deserve the same study and respect that women's studies now receive.

Acker founded and directs the University's "Men and Masculinity" symposium. The theme of the third annual symposium, which will take place March 6-8 on the University campus, is called "Men and Power." This is a fundamental issue in the daily lives of men, Acker said.

"It would be incorrect to say that men have not been the focus of study in the major fields in the past, but the day-to-day lives of men have not been studied, and that is what men's studies is all about," Acker said.

A class entitled "The Psychology of Men," which Acker has been teaching for the last seven or eight years at the

University, would most likely be a core class in the curriculum of a men's studies program, he said.

Other issues besides psychology would probably be included, he said.

Acker has proposed a center for men's studies to groups of men, which would be a repository for literature about men and a place for informal discussions and seminars dealing with men's issues. "The response was, 'That's kind of interesting but not quite in my area of interest professionally, academically,'" he said. "My hopes are that will change and that people from a number of different disciplines will begin to see that there are issues that are legitimate issues to study about masculinity from different disciplinary perspectives."

Other issues the program could explore include men's perceptions of themselves and the definition of masculinity. It also could include cross-cultural comparisons of those definitions and how they affect international affairs and foreign policy, as well as why international politics are seen as masculine.

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