

Transition takes place as new fee committee takes office

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

The transition from the current Incidental Fee Committee to next year's takes its first step today when the old gives the new a tour of the EMU Suite 3 office.

The new committee officially takes office Monday, marking the first time in recent years one party controls the committee and another controls the ASUO Executive.

Students for a Progressive Agenda currently has five endorsed members on the seven-person committee, while Concerned Students for Responsive Leadership, a newly formed coalition, successfully placed Kasey Brooks in the ASUO presidency.

Returning IFC member Bob Baldwin (SPA) highlights the interaction between the fee committee and the ASUO Executive as important to success or failure next year.

"At first, both sides will make a special effort to make any concessions that can reasonably be made," he said, adding conflict may arise because the two bodies have "some very basic differences on the basic role of student government."

"In terms of the course of the year, we will see some confrontation," Baldwin predicted. "My hope is that it will be handled professionally" and the two sides will be able to communicate, he added.

Steve Hoyt (SPA) also pinpointed the political differences between the Executive and the committee, but he doesn't see it as a real problem.

"I think things will go really well," he said. "The difference is this is the first time in three years we've had an Executive and legislative body that are different politically. But that's OK."

Hoyt believes there will be some political differences, but they shouldn't impede the process, he said. "I think there may be less conflict" than this year, he added.

He believes the committee members themselves also will be able to get along, he said.

"The election is over, and what it's time to do is help students," Hoyt said. With the substantial increase in next year's incidental fee, Hoyt said the committee will have to work hard to prevent another increase.

J.B. Leahy (CSRL) had "illusions of grandeur" when he

began campaigning for the IFC, but since the elections he's come to the realization "it's not going to be an easy job," he said.

He would like to see smooth relations not only among the individual committee members but between the committee and the Executive as well, he said. His other goal echoes Hoyt's desire to keep the fee from rising.

"I hope there isn't an expectation of standard increases" and groups asking for a yearly increase, he said. There needs to be a definite lock on the student fee, he added.

Leahy also would like the IFC to keep a tighter watch on what groups are spending fee dollars on, he said.

"I think we should look a little more into the fiscal responsibility of groups," Leahy said. He also would like to see an end to the "mudslinging" and "name-calling" that has occasioned this year's IFC, he added.

Kristin Teigen (SPA) hopes cooperation will supplant conflicts next year as well, she said.

"I'm not looking forward to it being a combative year," Teigen said. "I hope there is a willingness to talk about and

work through conflict."

Armando Morales (SPA) is beginning his third year on the fee committee. He stresses the cultural aspects of a program rather than the political.

"I support all groups that benefit the cultural development of the student community," Morales said. "It's very important to have people with very open minds (on the committee)."

As for potential conflict between the committee and the Executive, Morales doesn't foresee any problem for himself because he doesn't look at the politics of a program, he said.

Sandra Thompson (CSRL) also expressed an interest in keeping politics out of the fee committee.

"The committee deals with fairness and equity in funding,"

she said, adding it should not become a forum for politicking. The next couple of weeks will be an indication of how the year will go, she said.

"How we greet each other on the first day" can set the tone for next year's relationships among committee members, Thompson added.

Thompson is excited for the upcoming committee hopes to push for "more pre-planning and foresight in the budget process." She sees this idea already beginning with the transition meeting today.

"It will give us a chance to work together before we wander into the office on May 25," she said.

Laurie Clark (SPA), the remaining committee member, could not be reached for comment.

Proposal would create new park

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

The Survival Center will be trying to drum up student support next week for a proposal by environmentalists to create a new national park in southern Oregon.

The proposal calls for the creation of a 750,000-acre Siskiyou National Park out of existing Forest Service land between Interstate 5 and the coast.

The proposal would protect a 200,000-acre corridor of old-growth timber connecting the Wild Rogue Wilderness and the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, both of which are incorporated into the park proposal, said Bruce Philbrick, a Survival Center coordinator.

Activists at tables in the EMU Lobby will ask passersby to send letters to the U.S. Forest Ser-

vice in Grant's Pass in support of the park proposal and in opposition to planned timber sales within the proposed park area, he said.

"It's probably the most diverse coniferous forest in North America... and the white water is incredible," Philbrick said, explaining why he believes the area is unique and deserves park designation.

"A lot of recreationists use that area — kayakers and boaters and hikers and people who realize how special this area is," he said.


An act of Congress is needed to create a new national park, and no legislators currently are planning to introduce such legislation, said Jim Middaugh, a Eugene press aide for Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Eugene.


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