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Bill to give fee access to students

Students to control surplus funds

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

Senate Bill 830 became law Tuesday.

The bill, which unanimously passed both the House and Senate earlier this year, will allow students greater control of surplus incidental and building fees.

Senate Bill 830 was introduced by Senator Larry Hill (D-Eugene) at the request of the

and universities to have more control over their fees.

Prior to SB 830, surplus or over-realized incidental fees of the state's colleges and universities were not allocated by the incidental fee committees. According to Pinckney, the fees were often misused by administration officials who placed them in a "president reserve fund."

The president was allowed the liberty of using the fund without recommendations from students.

Problems arose as a result of the administration's control of the surplus. Pinckney referred to former Portland State University President Natale Sicuro as an example of fee misuse.

"President Sicuro used the surplus to offset athletic funds and pay the growing debt of the athletic department," Pinckney said. "This was also happening at Southern Oregon State College as well."

As a result of Senate Bill 830, surplus student incidental fees must be allocated by the incidental fees committee in an effort to expand and improve student programs and activities. By law, incidental fees must be

used for non-academic, recreational programs which benefit campus life for students.

In addition to the student control of incidental fees, the bill will also limit the use of mandatory student building fees. Previously, building fees could be used for the benefit of any building on campus without student consent.

Fees were often used for academic or administration buildings, Pinckney said, even though the money is supposed to improve or construct buildings which benefit student activities. Pinckney referred to the \$6 million surplus of 1986 as an example of misused building fees.

"At Oregon State University, part of the 1986 surplus was transferred to remodel the administration building," Pinckney said. "Because of the bill, we'll see an absence of transfers for purposes other than recreational facilities."

"The money is supposed to be used for self-liquidating and self-supporting auxiliary buildings such as the student union or athletic facilities," Pinckney added. "(SB 830) is a preventative action. Students will now have greater control of their fees."

Legislative Update

Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) Lynn Pinckney, OSL executive director, wrote the bill, which was lobbied entirely through the efforts of student volunteers.

"Students at the University have had previous access to these fees for a number of years because President Olum chose to deal with them (the fees) that way," Pinckney said. "The bill, however, will keep the control of these fees in the hands of the students."

The bill will also allow students at the other state colleges

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