

IFC candidate stresses fair budgeting for student groups

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

Helping student groups increase cultural diversity through equal distribution of money, is the main goal of Incidental Fee Committee candidate Ernie Brown.

As the Black Student Union director, Brown said he has an advantage over other IFC candidates because he's been on the inside and has seen how the system works.

"I've seen the mistakes it's made and the positive things too," Brown said.

Brown, a senior majoring in sociology, proposes several dif-

ferent ways to ensure fairness in the distribution process.

First, he encourages student groups to seek other means of funding in addition to the IFC.

"Groups should try to do more creative financing before approaching the IFC with their proposals," Brown said.

Secondly, Brown said preliminary funding estimates for the two largest groups, athletics and the EMU, would help keep the IFC within their budgets.

"If you can do that you'll have a good idea of how much is left and won't have any problems with funding everyone," he said.

"I'd also like to see what groups did in the past as far as bringing programs to the University," Brown said, adding that this will enable the IFC to provide more assistance for groups that are more active than others.

He also proposes to establish a reserve so that the IFC will be able to supplement groups that cannot cover unexpected costs or emergencies.

Brown said the BSU had run into that problem earlier in the year while trying to bring a speaker in. Due to the IFC's deficit it was impossible to grant the BSU the money they needed.

"If a group has a speaker, band or something else they want to bring to school the IFC should be able to take care of it," he said.

Brown said his financial qualifications stem mainly from his position as director of the Black Student Union.

"Part of my job is to budget the money for that program," Brown said.

Brown is also social chairman for Kappa Alpha Psi, a black fraternity involved with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and currently organizing a black greek council at the University.



Ernie Brown

Survival Center budget tabled

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate Editor

The Incidental Fee Committee allocated more than \$100,000 to four student groups Monday night and tabled the Survival Center's budget proposal until more information on the center's funding of *The Student Insurgent* could be obtained.

IFC Review

Survival Center members had requested money in their budget proposal to help pay their share of costs for the *Insurgent*, which is published by a coalition of University student groups.

Although the IFC voted earlier this year to fund the *Insurgent* directly with student fees, Survival Center co-director Matt Snider said that his group wished to continue to budget their own share of publishing costs to ensure coverage of environmental issues.

"We want to maintain our autonomy to make sure our voice is being heard," said Brian Hoop, Earth Day coordinator at the Survival Center.

However, IFC member Paul Nhem said that allocating money to the Survival Center for the *Insurgent* would increase the newspaper's budget beyond the amount previously approved by the IFC.

"We have already funded nine issues of the *Insurgent*; now the Survival Center wants money to give to the *Insurgent*," Nhem said. "I don't feel justified in giving them this money."

After some discussion, IFC members decided to table the budget request until Thurs-

day's meeting when a Survival Center representative can provide an estimate from the *Insurgent* of how much it will cost the paper beyond its budgeted amount to include the environmental issues coverage the center wants.

Earlier in the evening, representatives from *The Commentator* criticized the IFC for not giving them adequate notice of their budget hearing.

Commentator editor Patrick Perkins said that the group was notified Friday afternoon that it would be appearing at Monday's budget hearing. Perkins added that he was unable to notify publisher Thomas Mann until Sunday.

"I understand that the personnel problems have not been much help to the IFC," Mann said. "We're frustrated that we kind of got caught flat-footed on this."

IFC Vice chair Freddy Vilches apologized, and committee member Chad Bennion added that *Commentator* staff members could have rescheduled their hearing if they had wished.

The IFC allocated about \$6,300 to the *Commentator* to pay for six issues next year — \$200 less than the publication received to pay for eight issues this year.

Monday night's largest allocation went to Legal Services, which received almost \$73,000, about a 3 percent increase over this year's budget, to continue providing students with legal guidance free of charge.

Citing a lack of funds, the IFC turned down a request from the ASUO Mediation Program director Jacquie Gibson for a 5 percent salary raise that Gibson said would have brought her pay to a par with those of her

peers. "We totally understand the request; you're more than qualified," said IFC member Joe Revill. "But we're stuck in the position that we have no more funds to allocate."

The IFC approved a \$15,000 budget for the program, about a 6 percent over last year.

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