

# Vote on Colson could come Friday

By Kristin Genzer  
Emerald Reporter

The Incidental Fee Committee announced Tuesday night that the removal of Mike Colson from his IFC position will be voted on no sooner than Friday because of IFC procedures.

The IFC had suspended acting on removing Colson until the ASUO Constitution Court ruled on Colson's complaint against an Executive investigation that found him responsible for tampering with minutes from the IFC's Jan. 31 meeting.

The court ruled Tuesday afternoon that the ASUO Executive was within its constitutional authority to conduct such an investigation, rejecting Colson's argument that the inquiry was conducted through improper channels.

The IFC must allow three days before proceeding with the issue to allow for the necessary preparations and so that students can be notified of the meeting.

Barclay Grayson, IFC member as well as Colson's running-mate in today's ASUO presidential elections, said that the case is not finished yet and that the investigation could be challenged on the basis that the case against Colson "has not been proven or finished and should be opened up to all students."

Colson attended Tuesday's budget hearing but did not vote on any of the student-group budget

requests.

During regular business, the IFC members heard next year's budget requests from nine student groups and one special request from the Women's Center.

The Student Bar Association requested \$29,000, which is a drastic increase over last year's budget of \$23,572. The ASUO recommended \$22,248 to cover postage and long distance expenditures. The IFC voted in favor of the recommendation 6-0-1.

The Survival Center and IFC came to a consensus after debating on the usefulness of an additional campus newspaper featuring environmental concerns. The *Student Insurgent* received \$1,000 last year to cover environmental issues, however the Survival Center is interested in reviving the *Steward* and wished to put money into its own publication. The IFC voted for \$500 to go to each publication, and the approved budget matched the ASUO recommendation of \$13,163, a decrease of 6.8 percent.

These student groups received the following budgets: ASUO Child Care Subsidy (\$196,740), International Student Association (\$18,859), Women's Center (an additional \$3,030), Women's Center Vista Administration Contract (\$596), Black Student Union (\$11,453), KRMA (\$25,861 plus last year's remaining \$19,235 for equipment), Sister University (\$2,485), *Student Insurgent* (\$4,610), and USSA (\$11,048).

## RULING

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February should have been submitted to mediation or referred to the Student Advisory Board.

Gallo cited sections of the Executive Rules that govern the ASUO's handling of program violations and of student program's internal grievances.

However, the court ruled that the complaint was not an internal grievance because Lerma is "clerical help" and not an elected member of the IFC. Also, the nature of her complaint did not warrant mediation.

"Ms. Lerma's charge didn't involve a simple dispute between two parties, but a charge of wrongdoing," the court said. "Mediation would be awkwardly ineffective in this situation."

Although Executive Rules direct the ASUO president to refer program violations to a Student Advisory Board for corrective action, the court ruled that Bailey was not obligated to follow this procedure because no Student Advisory Board has been appointed this year.

Also, Executive Rules grant the president the authority to act on program violations without the SAB's help when the problem involves IFC budget notes, the court said.

"While the problem did not involve IFC budget notes, but rather meeting notes, the rule nonetheless demonstrates an intent to

make abuses of IFC procedures subject to Executive action," the court said.

The court also rejected Colson's argument that rules for the IFC investigation process should have been developed and approved in accordance with Section 5 of the Constitution.

"Requiring the Executive to promulgate rules before taking every important action would grind the wheels of an already slow student government to a halt," the court said.

Aside from Briggs, justices concurring in the opinion were Matthew Cate, Rachel Kelly and Joseph Ssebanakitta. Richard Wiener did not participate.

Bailey said Tuesday he was pleased by the court's ruling and that his recommendation that the IFC vote to remove Colson from the committee still stands.

"We've done our job; the court's done its job," he said. "Now it's up to the IFC."

Bailey said the Executive would discuss the court's recommendation to adopt a specific procedure for investigations.

But Colson said he was considering options such as appealing the court's decision to University President Myles Brand or seeking redress "outside the University."

Although the constitutionality of the investigation has been upheld, Colson said "the process and the way the process was carried out" could still be challenged.

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