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Four groups get budget cuts

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

The Incidental Fee Committee allocated 1992-93 budgets to five student groups this week, two of which were penalized for the fiscal mismanagement by last year's members.

At Thursday's meeting, the Interfraternity Council received \$7,827, an 11 percent decrease from this year's \$8,800 budget. The group requested \$10,355. The ASUO recommendation for the Interfraternity Council was \$8,453.

The Asian Pacific American Student Union received \$6,377, a 14.6 percent decrease from this year's \$7,741 budget. APASU requested \$7,182.

ASUO financial analyst Raymond Lee cited poor financial management in previous years and a "fat" budget for his recommendation of a more than 17 percent decrease.

The American Advertising Federation met a similar fate Thursday, when after receiving its \$3,203 1992-93 budget Tuesday, the group was recalled to answer to financial mismanagement of

last year's members.

According to a ledger produced by IFC member Ann Feig, money that should have been spent on speakers and films was inappropriately transferred between accounts to cover travel expenses and food.

After much debate over the accountability of student groups for previous members' misdeeds, AAF received \$2,580, a 25 percent decrease from this year's \$3,440 budget.

In addition to Thursday's hearings, the IFC also heard apologies and excuses from the Oregon Marching Band, which was zero-funded last week when it inadvertently missed its scheduled hearing.

Acting band director David Booth explained that he was unaware of an OMB mailbox in suite four of the EMU, where notification of his hearing was delivered. Booth said the band was particularly concerned about the effect of IFC zero-funding on the organization's current search for a new

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CIA

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The role of intelligence is to provide policy-makers with a coherent and objective analysis of issues that they are engaged in or should be engaged in, he said.

Intelligence employees are accountable to the executive and to the Congress and report to them often, Kerr said, contrary to the perception that the organizations work independently and outside the law.

Kerr warned audience members to be critical of what they read about the CIA. Most writers and journalists are not close enough to get an accurate picture, he said.

Kerr was asked about ex-CIA members who have spoken out against the organization, such as John Stockwell and Phillip Agee. He dismissed them as zealots out to make a profit. Kerr fielded several other questions.

Graduate student Bo Adan, who helped organize the event, refuted Kerr's claim that people who write about the CIA are usually uninformed.

"There are a lot of sources who do know what they're talking about," Adan said to Kerr. "In fact, we wanted to invite some of those sources here ... but you didn't want to share a platform with them."

Adan then asked if a re-evaluation of the necessity of the intelligence organizations is in order, and listed a litany of "abuses," from the mining of harbors in Central America to

the Iran/Contra scandal.

Kerr responded by saying they are necessary, but a reevaluation of the role of intelligence is in order in light of the breakup of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. He took issue, however, with Adan's list.

"I don't want to go over the litany of evils that you've defined, but I would say that what you're arguing with is U.S. policy ... and in other of your instances, I don't agree that the CIA was involved."

Kerr was also asked about CIA covert activity.

"I think the U.S. government needs something between a diplomatic mode and the U.S. military to influence events abroad," he said. "Now there are many who disagree with that, that we should not influence events abroad. But our influence abroad is not, and I don't think anyone can believe that it is, always just a malignant influence."

"Our influence in the human rights area has been very fundamental," he said.

A student who identified himself as a former Army Intelligence officer said he was trained to think the Catholic Church is an evil force and Americans who oppose U.S. policy are subversives.

"When you have this kind of framework in your mind, when you're in a country like El Salvador, and your officers say, 'We're going to go kill some priests,' what do you do? You say, 'Well, that's part of my training,' you don't question

it," he said.

"Everything you do is fundamentally illegal, but that's what we do, so you can't question it," he said. "How can you fight to change it, when that policy is coming down all the way from the president?"

Kerr said he wasn't sure that he was responsible for that student's activities, but the student responded that Army Intelligence is under Central Intelligence. Kerr said he didn't think the student's description was accurate.

"We do not condone illegal activity," Kerr said. "It does not condone assassinations. It does not condone the treatment of people as you described."

Kerr, who is retiring next month after 32 years in Central Intelligence, suggested that the University invite some of the newer members of the organization for a different perspective.

Lee said that if students want another forum next year, he'll work to help make it happen, but he doesn't think other speakers will provide any more information than Kerr did.

"We put a lot of time and energy into getting him out here and now I wonder if it was worth it," he said. "I didn't expect him to answer all the questions, but I did expect him to acknowledge some of the mistakes, and he didn't. At least students had the opportunity to meet him and express their feelings, so in that sense, I was glad it was done."

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