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Due April 6, 1992

IFC

Continued from Page 1

about 2 percent.

The twice-weekly meetings are often tension-filled marathon sessions, with IFC members stating repeatedly that they cannot give as much as they did last year. Student enrollment is decreasing, there will be fewer people using your group's services and we just can't afford to pay higher fees, the refrain goes.

Group representatives nearly always counter with the same argument — our group is vital to the University, we provide services that are crucial and we can't exist without more money.

Some of the increases are unavoidable. Groups with professional staff members, such as Legal Services, the Office of Student Advocacy and the EMU staff, have salary increases that are mandated by the Oregon Public Employees Union.

Arguments go around and around for hours until a final budget is hammered out and a final vote is taken. The result rarely satisfies either the student groups or the IFC members.

IFC Chairwoman Lydia Lerma and member Robert Cruz have already called several groups that have received allocations, including the Marching Band, back to the budget table. They believed the groups received too much money and wanted the IFC to consider cutting the budgets further. Each time, the committee has rejected the proposal.

Lerma said she tries to understand both sides of the dilemma. On one hand, she knows most students think fees are too high. But on the other hand, as a student who's been involved for years with MEChA, she knows how important these groups are.

"Increasing fees is a valid concern," she said. "With the increase in tuition and the drop in enrollment, people are afraid. The accessibility to this University is being jeopardized."

"The first reaction, of course, is incidental fees. We elect these students, they should cut our incidental fees." Well, what they also have to realize is that they have two full-time attorneys, they have a mediator, they have a student advocate, they have a student government, they have all kinds of programs here that benefit them if they want to use them."

Low-income people of color are most at risk for being shut out of an education with tuition increases, Lerma said. But she said ethnic student groups like MEChA, the Latino/Chicano student group, are crucial.

"These groups provide sup-

OSSHE 1991-92 STUDENT INCIDENTAL FEES

Incidental Fee	EOSSC	OIT	OSU	OSU	PSU	SOSSC	UO	WOSC
Student Union	\$14.45	42.66		29.01	12.50	37.64	40.49	22.78
Ed. Activities	55.85	26.22		13.92	30.60	14.93	27.72	23.40
Athletics	51.99	26.12		19.57	37.80	27.79	22.77	25.63
Rec. Sports	6.71		74.00	16.05		1.21	1.98	5.02
Counseling Ctr							4.00	
St. Development						07		8.46
St. Government			10.00					
Special Projects				1.00			5.04	3.71
Contingency				-5.5		2.66		
Total	\$129.00	95.00	84.00	79.00	90.00	85.00	103.00	89.00
STUDENT HEALTH FEE	30.50	50.00	108.00	47.50	47.50	47.50	54.50	40.50
BUILDING FEE	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50
TOTAL	\$187.00	\$163.50	\$208.50	\$145.00	\$151.00	\$151.00	\$176.00	\$148.00

Source: OSSHE

Graphic by Jeff Paslay

port for the very few students of color that are here," Lerma said. "They determine whether or not a student stays at this University. For me, if it weren't for MEChA, I wouldn't be here today. That was my haven. I know I always had somewhere to go and someone to talk to."

Eric Jones, co-coordinator of the Survival Center, said he does not think his group got a fair hearing. The Survival Center received an allocation last month that was down 11 percent from this year's budget.

"The IFC had told us a couple of weeks before the hearing that there would be across-the-board 10 percent cuts," Jones said. "I'm not real involved in those issues, I just want enough to get on with the group. I mean, I didn't want to get into a big fight about whether we were going to have \$2 for pencils."

The group presented a budget request that was a 4 percent decrease, Jones said, adding that he did not feel this was acknowledged or appreciated.

"We've lost a lot of respect for the IFC this year," he said. "A lot of groups are getting increases and we got more than a 10 percent decrease. I don't research this stuff, but as a student working in a student group, I feel disgusted."

The allocations have fluctuated wildly. ACT and American Ad Federation have taken the biggest cuts — both 25 percent — while some groups, such as ASUO Child Care Subsidy, Campus Radio and Vietnamese Students Association, have gotten major increases.

IFC Vice Chairwoman Sara Dodge said part of the reason for the variances is that two members have left during the year and have been replaced. In addition, at any given meeting, one or two members are often absent for voting. But she said she believes all of the groups have received fair hearings.

"When a group comes up before me, my personal philosophy is that I cut fat from a group, but won't cut so much that it hurts them," Dodge said. "I don't believe in cutting a group so far that it can't func-

'I think they're trying to be frugal and that's good. But I think they're erring on the side of being too frugal. I'm concerned that some of these groups who have been cut will be coming back for special requests in the middle of next year because they're going to run out of money.'

— Priscilla Warren,
ASUO vice president and
former IFC member

tion. "Some groups can be cut a lot and still operate and serve students," she said. "But some are already at the bare bones and can't take another cut."

Priscilla Warren was elected to the IFC in April, but resigned last month to take over as ASUO vice president. Warren said there is a definite difference in how IFC members perceive their task.

"Lydia and Robert feel that across-the-board cuts need to be made," she said. "Others, myself included, feel it's not a percentage we're after. We have to look at these groups individually. Some warrant an increase and some don't."

Warren said she believes some of the cuts have been unjustified, such as the 25 percent decrease Amazon Community Tenants were given.

"I think they're trying to be frugal and that's good," Warren said. "I think they're erring on the side of being too frugal. I'm concerned that some of these groups who have been cut will be coming back for special requests in the middle of next year because they're going to run out of money."

FEE

Continued from Page 1

University of Washington students pay only \$76 a term in fees, but enrollment is more than 34,000 — twice the number of students as the University, twice as many students to absorb expenses.

At UCLA, resident students pay \$7.50 a term for their student union and recreation center fees and \$13 for what is called the undergraduate student activities fee. About 35,000 people attend

UCLA.

The fees students pay at the University climb a little bit each year. Last year, students paid \$165 a term. During the 1989-90 school year, it was \$148. Fees were \$137 in 1988-89 and \$118 during 1987-88.

Of the \$176 each student paid in fees each term this year, \$103 was allocated by the IFC. In addition, \$54.50 goes to the Student Health Center and \$18.50 is a state-mandated building-maintenance fee paid by students at every Oregon college and university.

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