

Measure 4 seeks 10-percent cut

By Matt Bender
Emerald Contributor



In today's ASUO general election, students will vote on two controversial measures regarding incidental fees, one of which would cut fees by about 10 percent.

The reduction measure will appear as Measure 4 on the ballot. If it is passed, students would pay about \$92.70 per term in the fiscal year 1993-94, down from \$103 per term this year.

Opponents of Measure 4 say it will reduce student services and hurt the quality and diversity of education at the University.

Don King and Holly Ferguson, sponsors of the measure, refute this argument by saying they are only doing what students want.

"(The measure) was an idea that the students brought to us," King said. "The original idea came from students saying 'we're tired of higher fees.'"

King said he would like to see the cuts, which would be made by the Incidental Fee Committee, come mostly from the athletic department and the EMU budgets. This year, the EMU received \$1,925,266 in student fees and the athletic department got \$1,091,455.

King said the athletic department cut could be replaced by revenue created by a user fee for athletic events such as selling \$3 tickets.

Sandy Walton, associate athletic director, said the athletic department does not want to charge students for tickets.

She also said the athletic department would be willing to take a 5 percent cut without changing the amount or location of student seating.

The cut from the EMU budget should come from management, King said. He said he would like to cut some of the "bureaucracy" at the EMU and get students more involved in running the union.

However, EMU Director Frank Geltner said a cut in management at the EMU would mean a cut in services. Geltner said every EMU employee has a full list of duties to fill their work week.

King said the rest of the cut should come from trimming about \$150,000 from the ASUO student programs, bringing the total student savings to about \$450,000.

"The ASUO programs budget increased 5.14 percent in 1991-92, 4 percent of that increase was for stipends," King said.

IFC Chairwoman Lydia Lerma raised questions about how Measure 4 will work in light of the budget process.

In the budget process, the IFC decides the amount of funding each group will receive before the next year's enrollment is set. Once the enrollment is set, the total dollar amount allocated by the IFC is divided by the number of students.

Lerma said she is concerned that if enrollment drops, \$92.70 will represent a cut larger than 10 percent for some programs. If enrollment does drop next year, King and Ferguson said they will push for a 10 percent cut and not demand fees be reduced to \$92.70.

Lerma also said fund raising is not a feasible alternative to student funding to for all student groups.

"Take the BSU (Black student Union), for example. They don't have the large pool of alumni like the Greeks," Lerma said. "Who is going to support the small cultural groups like the BSU?"

Trent Spradling, director of the University budget office, agrees that services and groups will suffer if the measure is passed.

"Wanting to reduce costs to students is admirable," said Spradling, "but in the process they learn the very hard reality: Someone has to make the decision as to what services are not provided."

The bottom line, Spradling said, is that less services will be provided if funding is reduced. He also was skeptical about using fund-raising to replace some of the fees.

"The fund raising here for student activities usually wind up to be the bake sales and smaller things, which is nice," he said, "but that can't support an ongoing operation the size of what you see on a campus this large."

Despite the critics, King and Ferguson believe the measure is fair and can be implemented without a loss of services. Now it is up to the students to decide.

Measure 5 proposes voluntary fees

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

Fred Hagen decided he'd had it with paying more than \$100 a term in incidental fees so he took matters into his own hands.

Hagen drew up a solution that will appear on the general election ballot as Measure 5.

If passed, the measure would eliminate the mandatory fee system entirely.

Those who oppose this measure say its passage would do severe damage to student groups.

Hagen said he believes students and the administrators of the EMU and the athletic department need to be open to new ways of financing.

"I think there are many options with the voluntary system, and one is that you could sell restaurant space in the EMU," Hagen said.

EMU Acting Director Frank Geltner calls the "privatization" plan short-sighted at best. Geltner said that even if every spare inch of the EMU were leased, the income would not be enough to keep the building operational.

The athletic department is another place where Hagen said he believes some changes are necessary.

"The way it is now, we're forced to buy a season ticket," Hagen said. "What they could do is put together a student season ticket package and only the

people who want to buy will have to."

Barbara Walker, associate athletic director, said tickets would likely be sold, but probably not exclusively to students.

"In our financial situation, we have to rely on income," she said. "We would need something that guarantees income rather than waiting each fall."

Many minority student group members have voiced their concern that a source of outside education would be lost if money for speakers and other events is eliminated.

"My goal isn't to try and wipe out any services," Hagen said.

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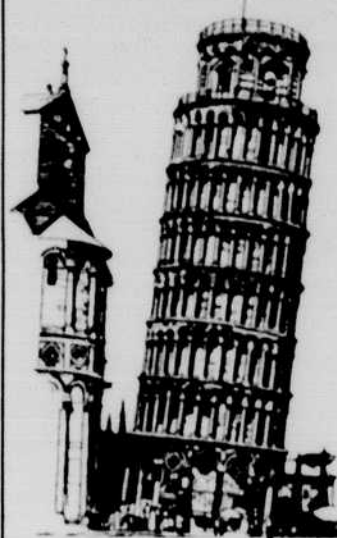
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