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# IFC chair glad year is over

By Kirsten Lucas  
 Emerald Reporter

Incidental Fee Committee members will be breathing a collective sigh of relief this week as they officially wrap up this year's budget season. And the loudest sigh among them will probably come from IFC Chairwoman Lydia Lerma.

Lerma is relieved because the committee managed to turn around a generous budgeting trend and allocate less money than it did last year. But she's relieved most of all because it's over.

It has been a long year for this year's IFC, which has faced anti-fee sentiment, internal conflicts, complaints of unprofessionalism, uncertain enrollment estimates and several disruptive membership changes.

The IFC musical chairs began with the controversial removal of former IFC Chairman Mike Colson who was accused of — and still denies — tampering with the minutes of a January 1991 meeting.

Since Colson's removal from his two-year seat, the IFC has seen three elected members resign and three new members appointed by ASUO President Jennifer Bills — with whom the IFC has not enjoyed the most ideal relationship.

In addition to high member overturn, ASUO ballot measures aimed at lowering and abolishing student fees, as well as complaints of unprofessionalism and internal conflicts, have shaken up the IFC.

IFC Chairwoman Lydia Lerma will be the sole IFC veteran on next year's committee — and she has no desire to chair the committee again.

"It was hell," Lerma said. "This year nobody wanted to do it. It's a lot of work. It's a lot of stress, and it's time consuming. I'd rather see somebody else do it."

However, in spite of this year's difficulties, Lerma said she is generally pleased with the outcome of the budget season — a 1.6 percent overall decrease from last year's total IFC allocations.

In other words, if next year's enrollment stays the same or falls by less than 2 percent, incidental fees will remain about the same.

The committee turned things around midway through the budget hearings when Budget Analyst Steve Masat discovered the IFC had allocated approximately 2 percent more than last year.

This relatively small increase was compounded

by committee members' suspicion of "optimistic" enrollment estimates provided by the University Budget Office.

Those figures, which project next year's enrollment to be somewhere between 16,300 and 17,000, haven't changed, said University Budget Director Trent Spradling.

The IFC uses the most conservative enrollment estimate to try predicting what student fees will be for the upcoming year. In other words, if enrollment drops and the IFC allocates the same amount of money to groups as it did last year, fees will go up.

Lerma pushed for decreases in IFC budgets all year, voting for only one small increase for Project Saferide. However, committee members did not consistently go along with her cut-at-all-costs agenda.

"It was a frustrating process because I was really serious," Lerma said. "We had agreed that we wanted to lower incidental fees or keep them at the same level and then there were some significant increases that were kind of frustrating," she said. "We scrutinized the smaller budgets a lot more than the larger ones and I don't think that was necessarily the right thing to do."

"I would say we accomplished our goal as a committee, but some of us felt that there could have been greater cuts in bigger budgets."

Looking back, Lerma said she probably would have taken more of a leadership role on the committee.

"I probably would define our roles a little more distinctively, maybe assert my role a little more," she said. "That's not really my style, but I think for the overall committee it might have helped a little more if I would have been more assertive."

"I think that at the beginning of the budget hearings I should have been stronger with my stance that I took that no organization could justify an increase with what we were having to deal with," Lerma said.

"I don't know all of the new members, but I feel positive about next year. Hopefully we can meet this summer and establish our goals. I think that will determine how the rest of the year goes."

Lerma is confident that a strong leader will emerge from the new IFC membership.

And although she won't take the leading role next year, Lerma said she will provide a supporting role for the new chairperson.

# FHA may try new crosswalk color

By John Higgins  
 Emerald Contributor

Those bright yellow-green crosswalk signs installed last week on Agate Street near the residence halls could be the color of the future if a federal study concludes the signs are more effective in getting cars to slow down.

"We've always had problems getting motorists to slow down in pedestrian areas," said Brant Williams, Eugene's city traffic engineer.

Williams said the city offered the Agate Street location because a lot of people use the crosswalk, and the traffic is relatively heavy. The city also in-

stalled signs marking a bike zones on Chambers Street and Amazon Parkway. He said there were no particular problems in either area.

If the chartreuse signs prove more eye-grabbing than the standard black-on-yellow warning signs, they may appear at crosswalks across the nation.

"Our basic policy is to try to be uniform all over the country so that the sign in Massachusetts is the same sign in Oregon," Williams said.

Eugene, along with Portland and other cities in the state, is cooperating with the Federal Highway Administration study.

Besides suggesting locations for the experiment, the city also

paid to install all the new signs. The federal government made the signs and is paying for the study.

However, if the new color is adopted as a national standard, the cost of replacing all the crosswalk signs in Eugene would range from \$60 to \$100 per sign.

Williams said he guessed that the current signs haven't been changed in 50 years. If the federal government decides to switch to the new signs, Oregon could ask for an exemption from the new standards.

If Oregon accepts the new standard, it would be granted a grace period of a few years to replace the signs.

## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

Student Health Insurance Committee will meet today at 4 in EMU Century Room D.

KWVA News Department will have a meeting for students interested in broadcast news internships tonight at 6:45 in Room 154 Straub.

### MISCELLANEOUS

College Democrats will have a primary election re-cap and look to November tonight at 7 in Room 142 Straub.

"Nietzsche's Wicked Game: The Performance of Genealogy" will be the title of a lecture by Daniel Conway, professor of philosophy at Pennsylvania State University, today at 4 in the EMU Gumwood Room.

Native American Traditions: Empowering Women will be the topic of a discussion today from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the EMU Gumwood Room.

Homophobia: How We've Been Taught to Hate will be the topic of a discussion today from 9 a.m. to noon in the EMU Maple Room.

### OPPORTUNITY

Career Planning and Placement office orientation session will be today at 2 in Room 237 Hendricks.

## DEAD

Continued from Page 1

have been covered."

Rust agreed that the concert will cause problems in the small community of Veneta, but said the caliber of the band is also a consideration.

"The Grateful Dead is one of the greatest bands in the world," Rust said. "We should be honored and put out the welcome mat for them and the fans."

Kesey said the concerts will be part of a large festival called the "Third Decadal Field Trip." Twice before, in 1972 and 1982, similar festivals were held at the Veneta

site.

The event will feature local artists, poets and food booths. Kesey's uncle, author Ken Kesey, is also scheduled to read one of his stories.

"It will be an all-day picnic affair," Kesey said.

The concerts will be the first Eugene-area Grateful Dead performance since the band was prohibited from playing at Autzen Stadium two years ago. That performance was banned over concerns about drug use and security problems.

Although the Grateful Dead decided not to return to Autzen this year, Kesey said they will probably play there in the future.