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many stations were using it to transmit, and KWVA - the new kid on the block - was the first to lose a spot. Lovelady said.

According to campus radio records, the station applied for the first permit in November 1990 and was granted it in February 1992. The FCC said it received the newest construction permit application April 24, 1992.

While the campus radio station waits for its final permit, so does the University student body for KWVA's first broadcast. In a campus election nearly three years ago, students voted to fund a campus radio station with student fees. At that time, organizers said they expected to begin transmitting within a few months.

Since that spring 1990 election, however, KWVA — then called KRMA — has had little luck and no air time.

KWVA may not have received its final goahead, but the Incidental Fee Committee has allocated campus radio three years' worth of student funds amounting to \$106,809 to get the station started.

Most of the money covers one-time costs such as big equipment expenditures, as equipment makes up \$53,469 of what campus radio has been budgeted for during the three years.

Another \$23,608 was allocated for stipend expenses for KWVA's paid employees. These include the station's department directors and managers, Lovelady said, but DJs will be volunteers.

IFC chairman Steve Masat said when the IFC reviews KWVA's budget this year, the allocated money will be "significantly reduced" to less than what was given in the past three years.

"It appears now that the groundwork has been laid," he said. "We expect the budget to go down 20 to 30 percent."

In the occurrence that another year passes without KWVA going on the air, Masat said the station's situation would definitely be re-evaluated.

"If they don't get on the air this year," he said, "their funding is in jeopardy."

ASUO President Bobby Lee said that though the station has not gone on the air, campus radio organizers deserve stipends because they are doing the work of an "up-and-running" station.

Lee, though, is going after the money that one former employee received for working four months this year. The student was written a letter earlier this month asking for the return of \$160 because the student was not hired through proper procedures, Lee said.

When Lee took office last summer, one of his main goals was to have KWVA go on the air before the end of his term as president, he said. Lee said a neutral, third-party group of people did an evaluation and audit of the campus radio station during the summer, and some former KWVA organizers who were asked to leave did resign

Lee said the only major offense the evaluation found with the station was \$439.28 in petty cash missing from its fund-raising money. He said it may not be illegal, however, because the money was never put into a state account as it normally would have been.

## 'If they don't get on the air this year, their funding is in jeopardy.'

Steve Masat. IFC chairman

Masat, who represents the IFC on the KWVA Board of Directors, said he has been advising the station on financial matters during the past three months.

The board consists of several student positions including a representative from the IFC, ASUO and Student Senate - and community at-large positions. Masat said the IFC position is included to "keep an eye on them and see what's going on.'

One thing that's not "on" is the radio station, and most often the FCC is blamed.

Lovelady said non-profit or educational stations seeking accreditation are often ignored a while because they lack the money to fund a lawyer to lobby the FCC for the necessary paperwork.

"It can't be afforded," Lovelady said, "especially with the way current financial things are today. We're going to be important to the University, but we have to work within the (financial) constraints.

Lovelady said former station directors probably made the prediction of soon being on the air after the 1990 election because they may have been basing their views of receiving permits on how long it would take a commercial station - with lawyers and more money

Paul Bjornstad, general manager of the Univer-sity-backed KWAX classical radio station, said the FCC is known to take a long time. He said his station applied to increase its power and move to a different radio tower, and the FCC took 18 months to approve it.

Porter said the FCC should not be blamed for long waits. She said stations - but not necessarily KWVA or KWAX - are prone to make errors in the paperwork that eventually require more time from the FCC.

"The reason why it takes so long ... is if you fill out an application wrong," she said. "And then a letter takes 60 days to be processed.

Biornstad said he believed the FCC was in the final stages of looking at KWVA's latest application and simply needed further documentation. He said last week he believed the student-run station's application was "probably 30 to 60 days away from getting approved.

After KWVA gets its permit, it will be one to two weeks before the station is ready to transmit, Lovelady said. He said assembling the PLC antenna and transmitter is just a matter of nuts and bolts and will not take long.

There seems to be little doubt the University will have a student station, but Lovelady refuses to get too hopeful with his predictions of exactly when KWVA will be allowed to go on the air.

To say anything is for sure is impossible to do," he said. "What the FCC will do is what they'll do."





