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Committee fields meeting quorum

By Beth Hege and Chester Allen
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a rough beginning, the Incidental Fee Committee this week fielded a quorum for two meetings and got the budget process moving after more than a week of stagnation.

The IFC heard budgets Wednesday and Thursday. The IFC also heard budgets Monday, but all decisions made at Monday's hearing were nullified when IFC member Jose Balderas, one of four members necessary for a quorum, announced he was not a student this term.

The legitimacy of Monday's hearing was also called into question because IFC member Efreem Mehretab, believing the committee would not have a quorum for that afternoon's meeting, had phoned ASUO and all the scheduled groups, telling them meeting would not take place.

"I don't know what Efreem was thinking," said IFC Chairman Steve Masat. Because of the misunderstanding, only the *Emerald* and Peoples Law School were in attendance to present their case.

Under the guise of a quorum, the IFC voted down the *Emerald's* budget request of \$129,000, the same as last year.

Masat said he could not support the request on the basis of declining student enrollment.

"We're printing a large number of papers for a small number of students," he said.

Emerald Editor Pat Malach disagreed with his logic and cited comparable numbers from other regional universities.

"If anything, we are below par on our circulation," Malach said.


IFC member Lydia Lerma said she wanted to know the recommendation of the ASUO before the vote. However, in the absence of the ASUO, the IFC voted anyway, and denied the proposed budget by a 1-2-1 vote.

Lerma then proposed a 3.2 percent decrease in the *Emerald* budget, which would take the newspaper back to 1991-92 figures, which the committee approved 2-1-1.

Members of the University Theatre, who had come to show support for their organization, declined the opportunity to have their budget heard in the absence of their leaders, but not before one student responded to the lack of decorum in the IFC proceedings.

"If this is the behavior of our student government, I'm appalled," said Ann Swanson, a senior in rhetoric and communication.

Masat said it had been a difficult year in student government and that two members of the IFC recently experienced deaths in their families.

 **IFC**

GROUP	1992-93	1993-94	% CHANGE
Women's Law Conference	\$2,185	\$3,473	+ 56.0
Students for Choice	1,002	1,142	+ 14.0
APASU	6,377	6,113	- 4.1
International Student Assoc	23,902	27,966	+ 17.2
Master's Business Assoc.	415	375	- 9.6

Graphic by Jeff Paslay

"There are some attitude problems," he said. "People are frustrated. You are seeing the end of a process that is impersonal and frustrating."

The student thanked the IFC for their work, but Lee wouldn't let the committee off so easily.

"I agreed with her," he said. "I had to transfer funds so students could get paid, which is illegal. ASUO is forced to do questionable things because things aren't getting squared away here."

In sharp contrast to Monday's confusion, Thursday night's meeting went relatively smoothly.

After debating whether Students for Choice was using student fees to directly campaign for pro-choice candidates and issues, the Incidental Fee Committee decided the group was not violating the ASUO Constitution.

Committee member Ed Carson cited the Constitution rule that forbids student groups to use student fees on political campaigns as a reason not to fund Students for Choice.

"I personally believe in pro-choice, but I don't think it's fair that students who don't agree with this group's position pay for their activities," Carson said.

Carson said the committee doesn't fund the Democratic or Republican parties on campus, and asked why the committee didn't hold Students for Choice to the same standard.

Masat said Students for Choice didn't advocate a particular position on the abortion issue, but only advocated keeping women's rights to make their own decisions.

The committee voted to increase the group's 1993-94 budget by 14 percent.

The International Student Association, back before the committee for the second time, received a 17.2 percent budget increase.

In other hearings, the committee approved 1993-94 budgets for three student groups.

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Assembly to vote on 'stalking' rule

"Stalking," or following a person around in a threatening manner, would be punishable by the University if an amendment to the Student Conduct Code passes the University Senate next month.

A hearing on the proposed amendment is scheduled for Monday, April 19 at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room. The University Senate will vote on the proposal May 13.

The proposed amendment

defines "stalking" as contacting another person in a way that causes the person "reasonable apprehension of imminent physical harm" or "substantial impairment of the other person's ability to perform the activities of daily life."

The contact would not have to be physical, said student conduct coordinator Elaine Green. The proposed amendment says it could include "communicating with or remaining in the physi-

cal presence of the other person."

The proposed amendment does not say how stalkers will be punished. Alison Baker, executive assistant to University President Myles Brand, said the University assigns punishment on a case-by-case basis.

The current Student Conduct Code prohibits unwanted sexual behavior and specific threats to students' safety, Green said, but it doesn't prohibit stalking.

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