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IFC not keen to replace funds

By Edward Klopfenstein

Oregon Daily Emerald

What do you call organizations coming to the Incidental Fee Committee to replace lost funds? IFC members call it a trend.

Members set the tone on alleged mismanagement by cutting requests from the University Student Bar Association and the International Law Students Association by nearly half.

ILSA requested \$1,400 to cover costs for a prestigious law contest they were entering after previous officials didn't file a budget for this year, and SBA wanted \$2,073 to replace Moot Court Board funds accidentally used by an SBA member for travel.

In addition, the IFC sent strong warnings to future groups thinking of coming to the committee after mismanaging their budgets.

"Obviously, this is a problem," said committee member Preston Cannon. "I've got this strange feeling that other groups will be coming from the law school asking for more money."

The SBA started a string of money woes when a member accidentally spent a travel budget designated for the Moot Court Board, which is a subgroup of the SBA, for budget reasons, said Michael Burgess, SBA budget officer.

The ILSA came to the Moot Court Board to help pay travel expenses for a law competition it is entering. The ILSA didn't have the money because last year's members never filed a budget with the ASUO and thus never received money for this year, according to the group.

The SBA's system of accounting was the real culprit, Burgess said, because line-item labels didn't clearly specify that the travel money was only for the Moot Court Board's use.

Burgess said he wasn't denying that he made a mistake, but because he wasn't told about the line item by last year's SBA officers, the committee should replace the money.

The IFC partially said no.

The IFC approved \$417 Wednesday for the SBA (the amount cut from the group's original budget) and gave them a \$1,000 loan that it must repay by Mar. 31, 1994. If the group doesn't repay the

money, the IFC can freeze its account. Burgess said if the group can't repay on time, he and other officers would repay the money from their stipends.

The IFC also appropriated \$650 to the ILSA for contest entrance fees, but told the group to raise the rest.

Burgess said because of 1990's Ballot Measure 5, the law department and especially the contingency fund held by law school Dean David Frohnmayer's doesn't have the money for student groups that it had before, forcing many groups to turn to the IFC.

Burgess told the committee that Frohnmayer advised the SBA to turn to the IFC for more money.

Many IFC officials believed that was bad advice. "We can't be playing cat and mouse with the dean of the law school," said committee member Shannon Wall, who advised more direct dialogue with the dean to discuss the issue of funding to student groups.

"Maybe a trend needs to be addressed here, but this is a one-time thing, and it hurt more people than just us," Burgess said. "It will hurt the Moot Board too, and it's not their fault."

Committee member Joey Lyons originally motioned to loan the SBA \$3,200 to cover the spent funds, but the motion died for lack of a second.

Cannon then motioned to give the SBA \$650 as a show of fairness to the group because the ILSA also received \$650. Lyons amended Cannon's motion for the final decision.

Eric Bowen, ASUO president, said at the meeting that SBA's use of the money was illegal under ASUO guidelines.

In other IFC news, the committee decided to keep summer IFC fees at the level of \$22 per student. If the committee had increased the fees, it would have represented the fee's fourth increase.

The committee also increased its ranks by two Wednesday night with the last two appointments to the committee. The IFC now stands at full strength with seven members.

The new appointments, Samir Kumar and Kris Cornwell, were approved by the Student Senate last week.

MEETING

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Engelking said there was concern that a possible unknown ruling by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, or another piece of legislation that legal counsel weren't aware of, could later haunt them.

"That puts us in a strange situation," he said, "so just to make sure we're not in any liability there, we decided to go ahead and have an open meeting."

Cannon said the issue should have been resolved before the first meeting and not by the third.

Committee members began their meeting Wednesday by discussing how they should handle media interest in committee meetings.

"I think we should bore them to death," said committee member John Orbell, a professor in political science, holding a copy of Tuesday's *Emerald* that listed Cannon's complaints. "Give them nothing but rank, name and serial number."

Engelking said at the meeting, "The news media (are) going to cover this in ways we do like and

ways we don't like. ... It is clear this committee is under a lot of scrutiny, but we need to close ourselves off to that kind of scrutiny (and do our work)."

Committee member Joseph Wade, who is also director of academic advising, said, "If we jump in without a goal, we will have the same problem as last year."

The committee's charge is to offer suggestions to the University Assembly on multicultural curriculum and on the Senate's motion debated last spring, Engelking said. The chairman emphasized that the committee exists only to make suggestions and not rules. Rules are the Assembly's job, he said.

He also tried to deflect criticism that the committee's makeup doesn't represent minority interests and instead "looks like a bunch of old white guys," he said.

"The committee was carefully put together by the Legislature and the provost to make this committee look representative of the University," he said. "The faculty actually is predominantly white male and does represent that perspective. ... Faculty might

be less interested in a recommendation from a committee that advanced the multicultural agenda but might be more disposed to looking at traditional academic virtues."

The committee includes five white males, three women and three people of color. ASUO Vice President Diana Collins Puente is the only student representative on the committee.

Although the committee has yet to decide if it will allow verbal comment, the committee said it would receive written comment until Nov. 19. Engelking will write a memo to University faculty and student groups to request comment. The letter is expected to be mailed by next week.

Committee members also said Wednesday that part of their goal-setting would include accepting a perspective on how to base multicultural curriculum at the University.

Whether that perspective is international, humanistic or from some other point of view, committee members said developing it was important to their final decision.



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