

IFC

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two-year positions)," IFC chairman Jian Liu said. "I would like to come up with some compromise instead of kicking them off."

In the past, there has been tension between the EMU Board and the IFC over budgeting procedures. The EMU Board spent a couple months working on a detailed budget of all EMU expenses rather than turning it over to the IFC for approval. Members of the EMU Board complained that the IFC conducted its own detailed review of the budget.

However, the IFC had only a week to conduct its review before it had to approve or disapprove the budget. Some Senate members believe this was unfair because the IFC couldn't conduct an appropriate review in such time, after the EMU Board had spent several months on the budget. It had been hashed out by the EMU Board, but the IFC had only hours to make a decision.

Also, pressure was on ASUO executives and other governing bodies to come up with some solutions. The executives created the idea of merging the IFC and Student Senate.

The new ASUO Student Senate would be comprised of 18 members, nine of which would be academic senators who are elected by their major departments. The other nine members would be finance senators elected by the student body.

The finance senators would be broken into three groups. Each group would serve on one of the three subcommittees for the athletic department, EMU Board and ASUO programs. These finance senators would work out a budget for their departments and submit their financial proposal to the Student Senate. The Student Senate would then vote on those figures.

Some EMU Board members were concerned that the ASUO vice president student senators could be biased toward the ASUO and other agendas. The vice president doesn't have voting privileges but does have the power to make the final decision in the case of a split decision between the senators.

All of the senators deal with the same proposals but represent different groups. Some EMU Board members fear the vice president would be swayed to agree with the senators who represent the ASUO's needs, thus taking away power from the Student Senate. However, there were some who disagreed with this assumption.

"The vice president has more of a mandate decision because this person was elected by the student body," Lyons said. "They're representative of what the student body wants; therefore, he/she isn't in the interest of ASUO, but the student body. That argument doesn't hold."

There was the same concern for some of the student senators because they all represented a specific group and some held other positions. Lyons suggested that if bias were a concern, then the position should be filled with someone who was informed in student government but didn't represent a group.

Although all the details of this new ASUO Student Senate aren't worked out, some members of the IFC are optimistic about the restructuring.

"It would be good; it would create separate governing bodies," Liu said. "It would define exactly what each body can and can't do."

The hope for this new Student Senate is that it would be more efficient than the IFC, the new Senate's catch-phrase being "micro-management." It will try to deal with the individual groups without going through a lot of steps.

The new Senate wants to forecast and look at the broader scope of things rather than just individual budgets. The new Student Senate would also give estimates to each department as a figure to aim for in its funding.

"The EMU Board was upset, and there's a lot of changes above and beyond that," Lyons said.

"But, in the long run, this is a huge change, but it's a good change. There will be a lot more communication and enhanced communication," he said. "There was just too much work for the IFC. This will give the Senate one focus."

"I hope this will make the process more clear," Lyons said.

CODE

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hour.

"I thought it went very smoothly," Gretchen Miller, chair of the Human Rights Commission, said after the forum. "I thought there might be a few people that had something negative to say, but there wasn't anyone. I hope it means that people think this is a good idea and we should go ahead."

"We expected to hear some critical comments, but we only heard one, and that did not address the proposed revision. That addressed the old city code," said Human Rights Commission subcommittee member

Doug Smyth.

Miller said she did not expect the OCA to show up for the forum.

"They tend not to turn out except in their own events," she said.

Eugene human rights analyst Greg Rikhoff expressed a little disappointment with the low turnout.

"We've done extensive outreach of information to the conservative Christian community and we were really hoping to get extensive testimony," he said. "We really wanted to hear from the people who disagreed (with the proposed revision). Maybe it's just a non-issue. The community is ready for it."

Rikhoff said he expected more overall comment on the new code. Instead, people only spoke about sexual orientation, which is just one element of the proposed revision.

Miller said she expects more people to turn up for the City Council's public hearing to consider the changes.

"The opposition is more likely to come to the last hearing than the first," she said.

The public has two more opportunities to comment on the proposed code revisions. Additional public hearings are scheduled for April 19 before the full Human Rights Commission and June 13 before the City Council.



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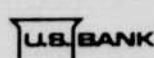
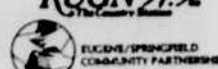
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