

Senate won't fund computers

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The Student Senate voted Thursday night to scrap its recent computer-funding policy and now plans to refuse all requests to fund computers from its budget surplus.

Difficult issues surfaced when Zeenab Johnson, a co-director of the Black Student Union, opened her groups special request for \$1,195 to buy a top-of-the-line IBM-compatible computer.

The BSU's request had been postponed from last week when the senate wrote a new policy regarding allocating money for computers. Last week's resolution set a \$1,000 per-computer limit on what the senate could allocate and forced groups to prove that existing computer resources on campus are inadequate for their needs.

Johnson complained to the senate that the policy, which did not apply to the BSU's request, discriminated against her group.

"We didn't know that you were going to change your policy because we came to you to ask for a computer. I find that — if you want to look at it like this — it's racist," Johnson said.

Several senators expressed opposition to the senate awarding any money for computers. Last year's Incidental Fee Committee, which the restructured Student Senate replaced, allocated \$20,000 to the ASUO Executive's Equipment Reserve fund.

Current executive policy mandates that student groups may draw no more than \$1,000 from this fund to buy computers, forcing groups to the senate and outside benefactors to make up the difference.

"I'm a firm believer that we set that money aside to the exec," Senator John Howe said.

"It seems that [the BSU has] the exact same needs for a computer that [the senate does]," Senator Kent Black contended. "I don't see how we can not give them a computer when the Senate uses one for the exact same reasons."

"We just don't have the time," Johnson told the senate. "This is stressing me out."

As the BSU members filed through the doorway, the senate quickly proposed and defeated a second motion that would have allocated the BSU \$1,000

for a computer.

"The representation on that board — there's one person of color on that board. Was it a woman? No," BSU member Kenya Luvert said outside of the meeting.

"What they were doing was lynching us. They might as well have lynched us from a tree and burned us up on a limb," Luvert said. "We are going to get our computer. They are not going to hinder us on accomplishing our goals."

Policy shifts

A second special request for computers filed jointly by the Office of Student Advocacy and ASUO Legal Services drew more support from the senate, although those groups, too, left the meeting empty handed. Both groups provide legal services for University students and are professional sub-contractors of the ASUO.

This request, submitted after the senate approved the computer-allocation resolution last week, was subject to the resolutions limitations, including a limit of \$1,000 per-computer or one-third of the total computer price, whichever is less.

"Why were we so quick to deny the BSU computers and everyone is pretty enthused to give these two groups their request," Black said.

"There's a huge difference between these groups and the BSU," said senator Jessica Frahs. "It's really important to make that clear, because I really want to fund them."

ASUO Budget Coordinator Kristen McCown told the senate that the legal groups, because they are professional contractors, should not be expected to raise significant amounts of money through fund raising.

"They represent students against the University. They can't really go to the deaa and ask for \$1,000 to buy a computer," McCown said.

The senate proposed and rejected several resolutions to give the two legal services groups \$2,000 to buy two computers. The amount the senate proposed would have been sufficient to buy two computers but the groups complained that the wording on the resolution prevented them from buying even one "whole" computer with money earmarked for no more than 1/3 each of two machines.

Cloned cellular phones used in alleged fraud

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A San Jose man has been charged for allegedly making "clone" cellular phones that allowed users to make calls while the bills went to other unsuspecting cellular phone owners.

Clinton L. Watson, 44, who described himself to investigators as a computer consultant and music producer, was arrested at his suburban home Monday and charged with three counts of fraud.

A federal grand jury indictment referred to 30 altered cellular phones, 16 altered computer circuits and about 600 electronic serial numbers seized at Watson's home. But U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi said prosecutors believe Watson has sold about 1,000 of the phones for \$1,000 to \$2,000 each.

In a single three-month period earlier this year, the phones were used to defraud cellular companies out of more than \$500,000, Yamaguchi said Wednesday.

Prosecutors said Watson made the "clone" phones, tinkering with each set's serial number, embedded in a computer chip, so that it matched the serial number of someone else's cellular phone. He allegedly used a radio-wave scanner to record

the serial numbers of passing drivers' car phones.

Calls from the clones are billed to the phones of innocent owners. Because customers are likely to notice the calls and complain to the cellular company, most of the costs are borne by the companies, which lose about \$1 million a day from such fraud nationwide, said Mike Houghton, spokesman for the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association.

Yamaguchi said Watson also tried to target high-volume commercial cellular users, who would be less likely to notice others' calls on their bills.

The clones Watson is accused of making are called "lifetime" phones, which are equipped with multiple serial numbers so that the user can use the phone keypad to convert to a new number.

"It was really pretty ingenious," Yamaguchi said. "It takes a highly sophisticated individual to come up with the software and perpetrate a fraud like this."

Also arrested were Watson's son, Mark, charged with making \$14,000 in calls with an altered phone, and another man, Dwayne Street, charged with two counts of fraud.

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