

Student Senator could lose seat on committee

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Student Senator Sarah Keech is in danger of losing her seat on the ASUO Programs Finance Committee after missing three consecutive budget meetings, Sen. Joey Lyons said.

"This situation is very concerning," Lyons said after Thursday night's meeting. "If she doesn't have a good excuse, she can be referred to the constitutional court."

Aside from Keech's absence, Lyons said the meeting went well. The Returning Students Association (RSA) got a 33.5 percent increase, the Black Student Union (BSU) received a \$3 increase in its budget, Land Air Water (LAW) received a .3 percent decrease in its budget and The Oregon Commentator received an 8.3 percent increase in its budget.

RSA, which claims to represent 31 percent of the total student body, originally asked for a 223 percent budget increase to compensate for rapid growth.

"We are the fastest growing segment of this campus," said RSA co-chairwoman Valerie Lewis.

Lewis and the group's coordinator Larry Haftl said their goal was to create an infrastructure for returning students. They said that returning students have a unique set of obstacles to overcome at the University.

"We have a whole segment of the population that needs a one-stop shopping center," Lewis told the committee. "We can provide that. Older students function than younger students. If you don't fund us sufficiently we can't do our job."

The BSU's biggest concern coming into the

meeting was a stipend increase for the group's director.

Zeenab Johnson Fowlk, the current director, said though she cares enough about the organization to work for \$87 a month the lack of money may scare potential candidates away from the position. To prove her point she told the committee that she was the only member of the BSU to apply for an office this year.

Members of the BSU expressed frustration at what they saw as a lack of understanding and empathy on the part of committee members for the time Fowlk puts into her job.

The group eliminated a co-director position and expected that the money from that position would be funneled into the director's stipend. The committee's first budget recommendation was \$600 less than the BSU's \$2400 stipend request.

"Eighteen hundred dollars is an insult," said Kenya Luvert, the BSU's student assistant. "We had \$1899 for both positions together. A student needs to live in addition to do their job."

In the end the director's stipend was increased to \$2000, but there was only a .02 percent increase.

LAW came to the board with a modest request and ended up with a .3 percent decrease in its funding.

The Oregon Commentator asked for a large increase to offset growth and rising printing costs.

Publisher Owen Brennan Rounds said that the paper would take advantage of the fees while they were still there.

"We're not going to be a martyr in the system, we're not going to let this (the Commentator) die out on principle," Rounds said.

HOMELESS

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especially difficult time finding housing.

"Lisa," a single mother with three children, has been homeless for five months and has been unable to find housing.

"No one will rent to me because I've got three kids," she said. "They say that kids have to have their own room, but being

on welfare and a single mother, a one bedroom apartment is what you have to live on."

Lisa lived with her children along the McKenzie Highway, about 50 miles east of Eugene, near Blue River until December when she moved to the car camp.

The camp receives \$63,000 through a special allocation of state funds. However, it costs \$89,000 to operate the camp

between November and June, and no funds are currently available for next year.

"If and how it will be funded in the future is a question that is still up in the air," Weinman said.

According to Weinman, the camp, operating in its third season, is the only one of its kind in the state and possibly the nation.

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