

## ASUO: THE BREAKDOWN

All University students pay \$123.50 a term in incidental fees to the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. And yet, how many students understand how the student government works? In our week-long ASUO series, we will highlight each of the subsections of the ASUO.

■ **ASPAC:** The Associated Students Presidential Advisory Council is an 11-member body of student representatives who meet monthly with the president about student concerns.

■ **ASUO Executive:** ASUO president, vice president and staff are responsible for the administration of ASUO programs. They act as student advocates to represent the University.

■ **ASUO Programs:** More than 80 student groups, which receive incidental fee funding, provide a group or organization for a variety of University students' interests.

■ **Constitution Court:** The five-member court approves the constitutionality of ballot measures and any questions surrounding the ASUO Constitution.

■ **EMU Board:** A 15-member committee consisting of students, faculty and EMU staff. The board is responsible for decisions regarding the development of the EMU.

■ **Student Health Advisory Committee:** Nine students are appointed by the ASUO president to sit on the committee, which recommends policy and a budget for the Student Health Center.

■ **Student Senate:** A 19-member committee consisting of nine finance senators, nine academic senators and the vice president of the ASUO. The Senate works on the allocation of incidental fees and special requests.

EMERALD

## ASUO: Williamson and Kelton holding open houses for students

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The ASUO Executive works with the administration, the student senate, student programs, legislators and the community to provide a student voice.

"Campus policies are traditionally run by faculty and administration, so the ASUO provides a perspective that is not traditionally heard," said Zachary Kelton, ASUO vice president.

Kelton said one of the biggest obstacles the ASUO Executive faces is students who think college student government is on the same level as high school student government.

For example, he said the ASUO doesn't plan dances, but lobbies against cuts to students' federal financial aid.

Williamson and Kelton said they want students to access the ASUO to ask questions and share their concerns. They will be holding Open Houses start-

ing this Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. in the ASUO Office in Suite 4 of the EMU.

"We are using the Open Houses as a way to get students into the ASUO and get them aware of issues that are impacting them," Kelton said. He also wants to use the weekly meeting as a mechanism for getting student input.

Kelton and Williamson will share the duties of running the ASUO office, functioning as co-presidents rather than vice president and president. Kelton will focus on internal affairs and Williamson will focus on external affairs throughout the year.

The pair said the reason for this is Kelton's experience with University administration and Williamson's experience with lobbying. Kelton worked as the ASUO University affairs coordinator last year and Williamson was the federal affairs coordinator.

## Unfilled ASUO positions still available for students

By Jennifer Carter  
Student Activities Reporter

It's not too late to get involved in the ASUO. Students can apply for eight vacant positions in the ASUO office until Friday.

The open positions are: international student affairs coordinator, recruitment and retention coordinator, assistant fund-raising coordinator, assistant communications coordinator, comptroller (who handles financial affairs), two computer support persons and a director of the student future fund.

Students can also apply for a position on a student/faculty

committee. There are more than 60 student seats open on these committees, which work on specific policy issues. Once on a committee, students become representatives of the campus body, said Zachary Kelton, ASUO vice president.

"This is really where the work is done, on these committees," he said.

Interested students can also be ASUO interns. With approval through ASUO student coordinators, interns work with the members of the executive staff. Credit is available to student interns.

## Consumer concern surrounds possible health hazards involving cellular phones

(AP)—Debra Wright, a real estate manager for a cellular phone company in Phoenix, Ariz., used to live by her portable telephone — and now has a brain tumor. She contends the hand-held models she used daily for six years are responsible.

Susan Reynard of St. Petersburg, Fla., died from brain cancer. A judge dismissed a suit blaming the makers of her pocketphone, citing a lack of scientific evidence. But her husband is not convinced. He notes that his wife's tumor formed on the side where she had held the phone.

Yet despite health concerns raised by at least eight lawsuits — none of which have made it to trial — scientists still can't assure consumers their phones are safe.

"Do you know what it's like

to ... have your health go away?" asks Wright, 42, who has undergone multiple surgeries for her benign tumor. "It's been very hard to have pain 24 hours a day."

Unlike car phones with antennae mounted outside the vehicle, hand-held cellars like those in the Reynard and Wright cases have antennae that sit flush with the head, exposing callers to an electromagnetic field whose long-term effects remain a mystery to scientists.

"We don't have enough information to say the phones are harmful. At the same time, we really don't know enough to say they're not harmful," says Elizabeth Jacobson, deputy director for science at the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "I think if there is a risk, it's probably small."

Although there is no proof the phones are hazard-free, industry representatives flatly maintain that scientific studies to date show no health risk.

"The FDA and the EPA and the other agencies that are looking at this can't be very concerned about what they've seen so far if they're not jumping into and funding research," says Ron Nessen, vice president for public affairs and communications at the Cellular Telephone Industry Association.

Most previous studies have been conducted at 2,450 megahertz, a frequency used by microwave ovens, not at the 837 megahertz frequency of U.S. cellular phones.

Meanwhile, the FDA has some simple advice for minimizing exposure to radio frequency energy: Limit your cellular calls.

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