

Long session pays off for BSU in form of 25 percent increase

FUNDS: The question of stipends dominated discussion at Monday's PFC budget hearings

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

The Black Student Union received a 25 percent budget increase for 1996-97 from the ASUO Programs Finance Committee after more than two hours of deliberation Monday night.

The long debate centered around the BSU's student stipends and the funding levels of certain programs, including the group's Kwanzaa Celebration.

PFC members said they had concerns about the student stipends because of the BSU's staffing level in comparison to other student groups. The student



union staff.

"It's more of an issue of equity between student unions," said Chris Kantrowitz, a PFC member.

After debate, the PFC decided to fully fund the group's stipend request because the group had received this funding level earlier in the school year from the Student Senate in the form of a special request. It has been PFC policy to regard special requests as a part of budget packages when making their overall funding decisions.

"Our trend has been to con-

sider special requests," said Skye Brigner, PFC vice-chairwoman. The funding levels of various BSU programs were also subject to debate by the PFC. Members debated about choosing the level of funding necessary for the student group to put on events and still allow the PFC to remain near its 7 percent benchmark.

After reducing the requested levels for events including Kwanzaa and Black History Month, the PFC granted the BSU \$15,797, a 25 percent increase over this year's budget of \$12,633.

The PFC also heard budget requests from Whitebird Clinic's Rideshare Services Info Line Program and the Solar Information Center.

Rideshare received \$4,130, a 4.19 percent budget increase for the coming year. This increase was mainly the result of increases to staff stipends and work-study positions. The staff increases were granted in order to bring the group's ASUO budget in line with ongoing raises at Whitebird Clinic. The work-study position increases — from \$5 an hour to

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

The 7-member ASUO Programs Finance Committee, which includes three student senators, will recommend how incidental fees are allocated to student groups next year.

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
Black Student Union	\$15,797	+25.00
Solar Information Center	3,890	+58.00
Whitebird Rideshare Services	4,130	+4.19
Money given this week:	\$91,602	
Money given to date:	\$1,591,356	

EMERALD

\$5.50 an hour — were granted because they have already been approved by the University's work-study program.

The Solar Information Center, an interdisciplinary group that works to inform students about solar and other renewable resources, received \$3,890 from the PFC. This figure is a 58 percent increase over the group's budget for this year, but is a 0.8 percent decrease for the group when Student Senate special request money is taken into account.

The group had received special request money from the Senate earlier in the school year, some of which went to stipend increases. For this reason, the PFC used both their policy to not increase stipend levels and their policy to use special request figures throughout the budget process to judge the SIC. With this hybrid as their guide, the PFC gave the group an increase over this year's stipends that came in under the stipend level the Senate had granted.

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WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
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Internet gives bookseller virtual advantage

AMAZON: The on-line service prides itself on discounts and a very extensive title list

By Amy Fast
Freelance Reporter

Next quarter, students who don't want to stand in long lines at the bookstore to purchase books will have an alternative. Amazon.com, a virtual bookstore on the World Wide Web, stocks over a million titles that students can order with the click of a mouse.

Based in Seattle, Amazon Bookstore recently developed this on-line ordering system to make available a large stock of books at discounted prices.

Jeff Bezos, president of Amazon.com, said, "We are able to

offer more items for sale than any retailer in history, thanks entirely to the Internet. If you're a reader and shopping from your keyboard, and hundreds of thousands of discounted items appeal to you, then we might interest you."

Amazon.com allows Web browsers to search for, locate and purchase books ranging in topics from technical manuals to literary fiction. Users can also register to be notified by the company when specific books become available through a feature called Eyes & Editors.

This virtual bookstore maintains a title list, five times bigger than the country's largest bookstore, which, if printed out, would be the size of seven New York phone books.

Bezos says, "Our motto is 'If it's in print, it's in stock.'"

However, students who don't have a lot of time to wait for books to arrive might not find this on-line service very useful.

The company ships, via UPS or Airborne Express, most books it has in stock within two business days from when it receives an order. Some titles, including many textbooks, are not ready for shipment and could take up to six weeks to receive.

Amazon.com runs permanent discounts such as a 30 percent discount on all best-sellers and 10 percent off most other books. Textbooks, however, are not discounted.

The web address for Amazon Books is <http://www.amazon.com>.

Event celebrates black women's contributions

HISTORY: Speakers read poetry and stressed the celebration of the African-American woman's identity

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

African-American women must seize the opportunities presented to them during history months for both women and blacks, said Ajuan Mance, assistant English professor, as part of "Phenomenal Women," a reception honoring black women's history on Monday night.

About 10 people gathered in the EMU Multicultural Center to hear Mance speak at the event, which was sponsored by the Black Women Of Achievement (BWA).



MANCE

Mance, who specializes in African-American literature, said she was always puzzled by the function of both celebratory months, which take place in February and March, respectively.

"It doesn't seem clear to me what's going on," she said.

Mance said while Black History Month was initially a time to celebrate "people that were normally ignored," when combined with Women's History Month in March, the period can become confusing for African-American women.

"It's difficult to decide what month we're supposed to celebrate our identity," she said.

Even though both periods often are not handled well by the nation's media, Mance said, black women can still benefit from them.

"[Both months] have come to be times where

"We need to capitalize on this opportunity to have access to all the things African-American women have done to record their own history."

— Ajuan Mance
assistant English professor

large media machines give you a cursory history, just a few names to know," she said.

A more individual effort can yield lasting and positive results, however, Mance said. Information concerning all women is readily available during the two months, in literature, music and television, and all that is needed is a little initiative.

"We need to capitalize on this opportunity to have access to all the things African-American women have done to record their own history."

Mance said the writings of African-Americans are especially important to recognize and refer back to.

"You breathe life into the ways African-American writers want to be remembered by remembering them."

Various students also presented works at the reception, including a pictorial display of the members of BWA.

Andrea Debnam, a junior majoring in fine arts, recited a poem by Maya Angelou entitled "Phenomenal Woman," describing the qualities and independence all black women should feel:

"It's in the reach of my arms / the span of my hips / the stride of my step / the curl of my lips," she read. *"I'm a woman / Phenomenally / Phenomenal Woman / That's Me."*