

Discussion: 'I strongly believe in the process' says PFC chairwoman

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funding to purchase satellite transmission equipment and an integrated computer system.

"What we tried to do this year is make a final push to take the station a step up into what it really could be and what would make it something other than 'that student radio station over there,'" he said. "The students voted 'not this time,' and that's perfectly understandable. It speaks louder than any committee."

The committee Pierson referred to is the Programs Finance Committee, the group responsible for allocating budgets to every ASUO student group on campus. This year the PFC worked within a 7 percent benchmark.

"The PFC system works best in serving a lot of groups that represent a lot of students in very small contingencies," he said. "It's very micro. When you get into something that provides a great deal of service to a great deal of people, that's where it gets different because you generally incur a great expense doing so."

Pierson said these new expenses should not have come unexpected. The need for equipment upgrades has always been present, and this year the station hoped to receive what they need, he said.

"Every year [for the past three years], I put into my [PFC budget] proposal a very thoughtful explanation of what it costs to run and equip a radio station," he said. "I explained that the system started before I was here, and it didn't accurately reflect anything close to what it should in terms of funding a radio station."

"For three years I've been warning the Committee there would be a day when a huge proposal would come across their desk."

Pierson said the KWVA request was not extraordinary in comparison to budgets of other university radio stations in the country. KUSC, KWVA's counterpart at the University of Southern California has an annual budget of more than \$2 million, he said. With this in mind, Pierson said he wishes the PFC had given more than an 8 percent increase.

"I know the PFC feels they really did go out of their way, and I agree they did as much as they conceivably could," he said. "But by the design of the system that they're working with, they were unable to do any better than they did."

"What they did for us is greatly appreciated, but in my mind I'm still stuck between the could have and the should have."

PFC Chairwoman Susan Anderson said the Committee fulfilled its duties to all student groups and funded KWVA as much as possible.

"To be quite honest, everyone on the PFC was 100 percent behind KWVA," she said. "After the ballot measures failed they've all been slamming us, saying we've been shirking our duties. But in actuality, we gave them an increase."

"We told them initially we couldn't give them all they wanted, so with the help of the ASUO and the Executive, we sent them to the ballot."

However, Anderson said this support has gone unappreciated.

"It frustrates me because before the voting process, I was 100 percent behind this course of action," she said. "And because it didn't go James' way, now it's our fault."

"I think he's wrong in his conclusion that the PFC supports smaller groups over the larger ones because if you look at the ASUO Executive office, it represents every student on campus and we fund them as much as we can."

Anderson said the problems surrounding KWVA do not stem from inherent problems in the fee allocation process.

"We gave KWVA as much as we could afford," she said. "I strongly believe in

the process we have set up now because it is students deciding how to spend students' money. I don't know what James thinks would be a better system."

Because of its benchmark, Anderson said the PFC faced a daunting task of providing sufficient allocations to everyone.

"Students are poor, and we knew that throughout our whole process," she said. "We cut wherever we could. We were a conservative committee because we really looked at the numbers a lot closer than previous committees have."

This type of process is not something new to government, Anderson said.

"I draw parallels between our process and the federal government," she said. "Every single person in the country, like student incidental fees at the University, pays taxes. These taxes are spread over a very large number of programs that represent the majority and the minority."

If the federal tax system or the student incidental fee allocation process were changed, however, the effects would be vastly negative, she said.

"The programs we now have wouldn't exist if this process were obliterated like a lot of people want it to be," she said.

"Programs across the board would suffer."

Speech: Past essential to understanding

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about their experiences during the Holocaust, Lipstadt said.

American Jews finally "came out of the woodwork" in 1967 during the Six-Day War, Lipstadt said.

"The belief that Israel destruction was imminent and the silence of the world, including the lack of action from United Nations, were reminiscent of the Holocaust," she said. "It could be said that for the Jews, the victory of the Six-Day War constituted the end of the Holocaust."

Following the victory of the war and the declaration of Israel's statehood, American Jews decided they would not let the world decide their fate any longer, Lipstadt said.

The increased awareness and acceptance of ethnicity in the 1970s finally gave Jews a chance to talk openly about the Holocaust. People who had once been called refugees were now considered survivors, Lipstadt said.

The increased focus on the Holocaust caused problems by skewing Jewish history and inaccurately making the Holocaust and persecution the cornerstone of Jewish culture, Lipstadt said.

"It fostered the inaccurate view that because of, rather than despite anti-Semitism, Jews needed to remain Jews," she said.

The evolution of University-level studies and courses on the Holocaust is essential to helping Americans, both Jewish and non-Jewish, understand the complete implications of the Holocaust, Lipstadt said.

As the number of living Holocaust survivors decreases, the study of the history and effect of the Holocaust becomes more important as a way to remember the past events.

"As time goes by, we are more likely to become complacent," said Holly Campbell, assistant director of the Humanities Center and one of the conference organizers. "We need to remember that we all have a great capacity for good and a great capacity for evil. The choice is in which one to cultivate."

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